

# VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 61, ISSUE No. 1

FEBRUARY 25, 2004

IT'S YOUR NEWSPAPER

## Primary Election Tuesday

■ Major budget measures decided.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS  
AND MICHAEL ORDOÑA  
STAFF WRITERS

Longtime senate leader John Kerry, D-Mass., is making a mockery of the race for the Democratic presidential nomination with 15 victories in 17 primaries.

His only serious competition is Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., who has less than one-third as many delegates. Kerry could essentially wrap up the nomination on March 2, or "Super Tuesday." Those 10 races, including California and New York, represent 1,151 delegates – the most to be determined on any primary date.

Now the drama of Tuesday's election rests with the four statewide propositions and one local measure that will have lasting ramifications for California's budget and its public schools.

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's economic recovery plan relies on a pair of linked propositions, 57 and 58. Both must pass in order to take effect – if one fails, neither becomes law.

Proposition 57 authorizes the state to issue \$15 billion in bonds to cover the current budget shortfall. This action would deepen the long-term debt for the state – but would, according to the administration, get California back on track without raising taxes.

Proposition 58 legislates a balanced budget requirement and restricts future borrowing.

The dual measures have caused some confusion among voters who have often misidentified them as the other two propositions on the ballot, 55 and 56.

"It's all Greek to me," said liberal arts major Arleen Miller. "I'm tired of all the political mumbo jumbo being shoved down our throats. [Do they want voters] to choke before they even get to the polls?"

Proposition 56 is an alternate approach to curbing fiscal imprudence by the legislature. It lowers the majority required to pass budgets and raise taxes to 55 percent rather than the current two-thirds, and it levies financial penalties against lawmakers who fail to pass a working budget by a set deadline.

Proposition 55, meanwhile, issues a \$12.3 billion bond for public education facilities. This has also been confused with the local Measure R, which pertains only to Los Angeles Unified School District facilities.

Officials at Valley released a memo Thursday stating that the college supports all four statewide measures.

Details of the key issues appearing on Tuesday's ballot are available in this issue's page 6 Election Preview.

**Election Preview**  
**Details of the**  
**ballot propositions**  
**Page 6**



SALVADOR AGUILAR/ VALLEY STAR

**THROUGH RAIN OR SLEET OR SNOW** - Striking employee and Valley College student Christina Parker walks the picket line. (The replacement worker interviewed for this story declined to be photographed.)

## The Strike: Both Sides Of The Line

■ Two Valley students, one a striker and one a replacement worker, live through the grocery strike.

BY KRISTA CARLSON AND  
PETER O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITERS

Despite occasional hints that negotiations may soon bear fruit, the grocery workers strike appears headed for its fifth month.

More than 70,000 workers have held the line as replacement workers walk past them to fill their former posts each day. Striking employees of Ralphs, Vons and Albertson's say they are fighting not to force further concessions from their employers, but to protect the benefits they now have.

The cuts proposed by

the grocery chains include caps on surgeries and chemotherapy, elimination of dental and vision coverage and an increase of \$5 per week for the reduced coverage.

Striker Christina Parker isn't comfortable with what she calls, "an extra \$5 a week for half of what we used to get ... over the next three to four years they want to raise that to \$100 per week."

Parker, a 25-year-old liberal arts student at Valley College, worked for Ralphs for four years before she and fellow market workers went on strike in October. She chose the work because she

thought it would be a secure job throughout college. It was, until now.

"I'm willing to accept that what they give us wouldn't be as good [as what we had]," Parker said, adding that she has made frequent use of her benefits. "I think we had exceptional benefits, but [I won't go] as far back as they want me to go."

Meanwhile, Valley student and Ralphs replacement employee Nic Lewis has trouble understanding why the strikers are having such a difficult time paying a little bit more for benefits that will take care of themselves and

their families.

"I don't have an ounce of pity for these people that are whining about their benefits," said Lewis. "I served my country for four years and paid more each month for benefits than these crying union workers."

Lewis, 24, is fresh out of the Navy and working long shifts while attending Valley in hopes of finishing the EMT program and becoming an arson investigator.

As a full-time student, he says he knows what he has to do to survive.

"Now, I do not have harsh

Please see *Strike* page 6

## Keep On Passing The Open Windows

■ Feb. 17 seminar teaches students to cope with suicidal feelings.

BY SUSAN MALTBY  
STAFF WRITER

Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. A recent report from the National Institute of Mental Health ranked suicide as the 11th leading cause of death in the United States.

In 2001, the total number of suicide deaths in the United States was 30,622, more than double the number of U.S. deaths due to AIDS and more than 10 times the number of U.S. military deaths since 2001, based on recent statistics from the Defense Department Directorate for Information Operations and Reports.

"Your chances of dying from suicide are greater than being killed by someone else," said Dr. Carl King, Clinical Psychologist for Valley Student Health Services.

"When we talk about suicide we're really talking about depression which leaves someone with a profound sense of hopelessness and helplessness," King explained at a campus informational seminar Feb. 17. "The most important thing to remember is that depression is treatable and if you reach out we can help you find ways to cope with the stress in your life."

Research shows that more than 90 percent of people who kill themselves have a diagnosable mental illness or a treatable substance abuse disorder. "We are reaching out to help students who suffer from depression and thoughts of suicide, and teach

Please see *Suicide* page 6



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

## Valley By The Numbers

■ Valley leads LACCD in transferring students to UC and CSU systems.

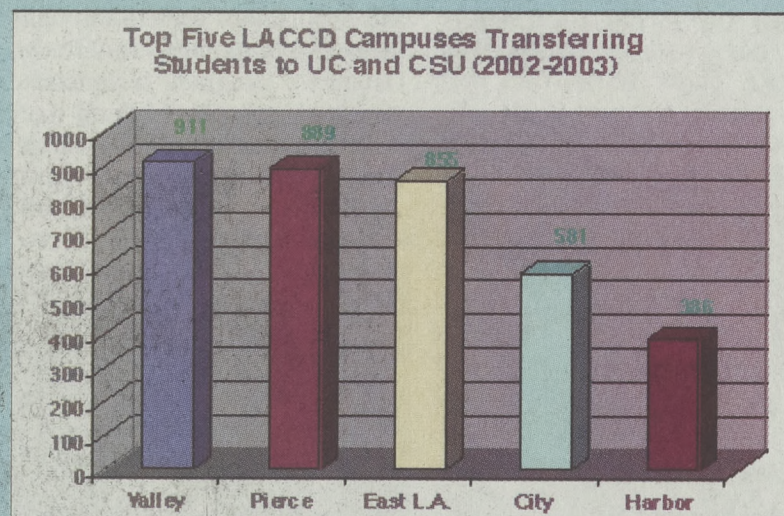
BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS  
STAFF WRITER

Students at Valley College are a part of a shifting ethnic landscape. As the college's demographics change with the community's, though, its transfer rates to four-year schools remain high.

Over the past 30 years the student body at the college has changed over from predominately white to predominately Hispanic. Other minority groups such as African-Americans and Asians have also enjoyed big boosts, increasing as much as 11 percent during that time.

"I feel fortunate to be a part of a community with such ethnic diversity," said student Maria Lopez. "I think it adds to the overall learning environment."

According to the "LAVC 2002-2003 Fact Book and Effectiveness Manual," the Los Angeles Community College District serves four times as many African American students and 2.7 times as many Latino students as all the University of



California campuses combined.

Researchers speculate this is due to the economic status of students. The Fact Book lists the average household income in the San Fernando Valley to be approximately \$70,000. However, studies from the San Fernando Valley Economic Research Center at CSUN show that out of the 1,778,483 people living in the San Fernando Valley, 31.3 percent are low income.

At Valley, 51 percent of stu-

dents are considered to be low income with 53 percent earning less than \$24,000 annually, according to the Fact Book.

"I have to juggle a full time job and go to school," said student Enrico Valezquez. "With the increased costs of classes and unreasonable costs of books, it's hard to make ends meet."

Another growing trend reflected in the statistics is the number of students beyond tradi-

Please see *Demographics* page 6

**VALLEY LIFE PG. 4**  
**OSCAR MANIA**  
PICK THE WINNERS  
AND WIND UP  
WITH A DVD

**GALLERY PG. 10**  
**A JOYOUS EVENT**  
VALLEY COLLEGE  
HOSTS ITS FIRST-EVER  
WEDDING RECEPTION

**SPORTS PG. 8**  
**ONE IN, ONE OUT**  
LADY MONARCHS REACH  
REGIONAL PLAYOFFS, MEN  
FALL JUST SHORT

**VALLEY LIFE PG. 4**  
**FIGHT LIKE**  
**A SQUIRREL**  
NEW COMIC STRIP  
DEBUTS IN VALLEY LIFE



## NEWS REEL

### DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE:

President George W. Bush announced yesterday his support for a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Bush offered civil unions as an alternative to gay marriage.

Democratic presidential frontrunner Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., announced earlier his opposition to gay marriage. Kerry, who supports civil unions, said he does not support a constitutional amendment.

### INTO THE FRAY:

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader entered the race for president Sunday during an appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press." Nader received much criticism in 2000 for directing votes away from Al Gore, thereby securing Pres. Bush's election.

### BITING APPLE:

Rapper Eminem filed suit against Apple Computer Inc., claiming the makers of iPod music players used one of his hit songs without permission during a commercial which aired on MTV. The suit did not list a claim for specific damages.

## CAMPUS EYE

### PARKING PERMITS NOW REQUIRED FOR ALL CARS:

The two weeks of parking amnesty ended Feb. 20 and campus police have started ticketing cars parked in student lots without a permit.

Hundreds of tickets are issued at the beginning of the semester, but after a couple weeks the tickets become less frequent, according to a Sheriff's Dept. representative.

Tickets, which cost \$30, are also being issued to students who park in lots reserved for teachers.

Permits are available at the business office for \$20. The campus bookstore may soon also sell permits for students who are unable to visit the business office before closing, which is 3:45 p.m., according to the Sheriff's Dept..

### BLACK HERITAGE FESTIVAL TODAY:

Black Student Union and Associated Student Union are hosting "Black Heritage Celebration 2004".

The festival, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. today, is being held at Monarch Square. Included in the celebration will be a step show, keynote speaker, poetry reading, soul food, voter registration, and ASU club day.

### CURRICULUM:

Today 1:30 p.m., PMRC

### TEAM TRANSFER:

Today 3 p.m., PCR

### PLANITARIUM SHOW "THE HEART OF THE MILKYWAY":

Friday, Feb. 27 8 p.m., Planetarium

### LIBRARY WORKSHOPS HELD IN LAIR COMPUTER LAB:

Monday, March 1 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Research Strategies.

Tuesday, March 2 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

## Pilot Program Gets Students on TRACK

By MICHAEL ORDOÑA  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The field of child development is growing, and the innovative Project TRACK is here to make sure Valley students grow along with it.

"There's a whole new direction that child development is going in, a more professional one," said Project Coordinator Marni Roosevelt. "Ultimately the teachers will be required to have bachelor's degrees. Research shows it's important that kids are taught by people with more education [themselves]."

TRACK, which stands for "Teaching Resources And Community Knowledge," is a pilot project funded by Proposition 10 to address the educational needs of children in their earliest years. The project's three-year startup grant will expire this May, but project leaders are hopeful that a new funding source may be found via the growing Universal Preschool initiative.

"Research says that the first five years of life build the foundation of learning for kids," said Roosevelt. "Anything we can do to promote learning and literacy — speaking, reading, the fun of words, social interaction [is

crucial]."

The project is underway at six Los Angeles Community College District campuses: East Los Angeles College, City College, Trade-Technical, Valley, Mission and Southwest. The project differs from previous child development training programs in that it provides support for participants financially, professionally and emotionally.

Students can have books and tuition subsidized, attend meetings to share experiences, take part in workshops that also involve the surrounding community, attain professional certificates and establish the foundation to move on to four-year schools for higher degrees in the field. Participants don't have to income-qualify to join the project, which is entirely free of charge.

According to Valley's child development department, the department includes nearly one-tenth of the student body: 1,600 unduplicated students and 40 percent of certificates issued by the college. There are currently about 30 participants in Project TRACK at Valley, but Roosevelt says there is always room for more.

The field of child develop-

ment, which Department Chair Lauren Okayama said was once regarded as akin to "babysitting," is increasingly being recognized as a crucial part of overall growth and education.

"People in this field are underappreciated, underpaid, wages are abysmal — so there is tremendous turnover, which is detrimental to young kids," said Okayama, noting that with the increased expectations and stricter requirements of Universal Preschool will come not only commensurate pay but long-overdue respect: "Don't ever say 'I'm just a preschool teacher.'"

TRACK student Vivan Esgeb, who would like to be the director of an early care school one day, plans to seek her degree at a school like Pasadena's Pacific Oaks College, which she learned about through the project.

"[TRACK] is a very positive environment, very welcoming," said Esgeb, 22. "Anytime you have a question, Marni finds a way to bring it into the meetings. They're open to a lot of different ideas."

One of the project's success stories is 56-year-old Tyrone Cain. Leaving the postal service after 22 years, Cain said he had



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

**STORY TELLER**-Los Angeles Valley College president Dr. Tyree Wieder tells a story to the childrens of Wonderlans Avenue Elementary School.

no direction. At his daughter's urging, he took a child development class at Valley.

"I was so impressed with the teacher's ability," said Cain, "I just fell in love with it. They brought different speakers into the environment who talked about things I was dealing with. That's when I really thought this is where I should be."

After two years in the program, including serving as a tutor to other participants, Cain is in the process of completing his bachelor's degree in child development at CSUN. But he intends to keep helping out at

Valley as long as he's welcome.

Proposition 10's First 5 agency is now working toward establishing Universal Preschool, which would ensure access to early care programs for more than 100,000 of the county's 3- and 4-year-old children who currently do not receive such services. In June 2003, \$100 million of Prop 10 funds were allocated for this purpose; in October, the California Teachers Association announced that they would work toward a ballot initiative to raise taxes on commercial properties

see **TRACK** page 6

## Got cash? Valley shows you the money

■ More than \$42,000 in campus scholarships up for grabs until next week.

By SUSAN MALTBY  
STAFF WRITER

The deadline to apply for more than 40 Valley College scholarships is March 5.

"Our goal this year is to distribute more than \$42,000 in scholarships," said Raul Castillo, executive director of the Patrons Association Valley Foundation. "The saddest thing is when we don't get any applications and the money goes unclaimed."

College costs are constantly rising, but a multitude of scholarships are available to Valley students help ease the financial strain. Awards are available for most areas of study, especially the arts.

"We need to get the message out to all of our students particularly to our art majors," said Castillo. "They need to apply for this money now."

The Patrons Association is just one of several entities on campus offering scholarships. The Student Assistance Center has many more opportunities.

"We keep our information and applications current through the next four months," said Rudy Delatorre, program technician. "Students can also check on-line through a scholarship search engine such as Google."

Last year, more than 80 scholarships were awarded to

Valley students, totaling more than \$38,000.

Students may also qualify for academic awards offered by their employer. Many companies offer scholarship programs to relatives of employees. Be sure to check with your parents and relatives to find out if you may qualify for extra college cash.

Most community service organizations and associations also offer some type of educational assistance to members or their relatives.

Scholarships are awarded to students based on a wide variety of criteria. Don't assume that you must have a perfect G.P.A. to qualify. Awards are seldom judged exclusively on academic merit. Each application is evaluated according to its specific requirements, which may or may not include financial need, extra-curricular activities, community involvement or a written essay.

For more information about Patrons Association scholarships and guidelines call (818) 947-2700. Applications are available in the Valley Foundation Office, Administration Building, Room 100.

Other general scholarship applications can be found in the Student Assistance Center in Cafeteria Building 101B, or call (818) 947-2487.

## New memorial scholarship honors bio professor

By SUSAN MALTBY  
STAFF WRITER

A new memorial scholarship was established on Feb. 13 by the biology department to honor one of the earliest and most influential faculty members of Valley College.



GEORGE HALE

Former biology professor George Oswald Hale, 88, passed away Nov. 10, 2003 after a brief illness.

Hale was a WWII veteran who served as a Naval officer before he began teaching at Valley in 1953. He served for 20 years as chair of the biology department and retired after more than 30 years of service to the college.

He is remembered fondly by many for his involvement in many community service organizations.

The campus landscape was nearly barren when Hale began his tenure at Valley. He established the nursery which now stands east of the life sciences building.

He was also responsible for the design and plant selection for most of the campus landscaping which still grows today.

The lush gardens and towering shade trees throughout the college grounds are a living and lasting testament to Hale's loving dedication to Valley.

The George Hale Memorial Scholarship Fund will assist students in their pursuit of an education in biology. It serves as another legacy of a man whose contributions to Valley won't be forgotten.

Donations to the memorial fund may be sent to the Patrons Association, 5800 Fulton Ave., Valley Glen, CA 91401. For application information call (818) 947-2700.

### CAMPUS CRIME

## Offender is touch and go

JACQUI BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

Police were called to the Valley College campus center building Thursday after a man was seen masturbating in the upstairs hallway.

According to the police report, the female victim had just exited classroom 201 in the campus center, when she saw a male, approximately 30 feet away from her in the hallway, exposing himself.

Campus security officers responded in force and did an immediate search of the building and surrounding area. One suspect matching the description was detained outside of the building and questioned but was later released after the witness was unable to identify him as the perpetrator. Police continued to search but were unable to locate the suspect.

"We are going to be increasing our patrols during the night school hours," said Dep. Randy Tunistra, head of campus security at Valley. "So far, this was a one-time incident. We have not received any other calls but we will continue to watch out for him."

The suspect is described as an African-American male, approximately 5'10", 20-to-30 years old with black hair. He was wearing what appeared to be a light-blue medical scrub shirt and white pants.

"Any witnesses to this incident should contact us immediately," said Det. Steve Gutierrez of the Sheriff's department.

Anyone with information to this crime should contact the Sheriff's department at (818) 947-2911.

please see **Crime** page 7

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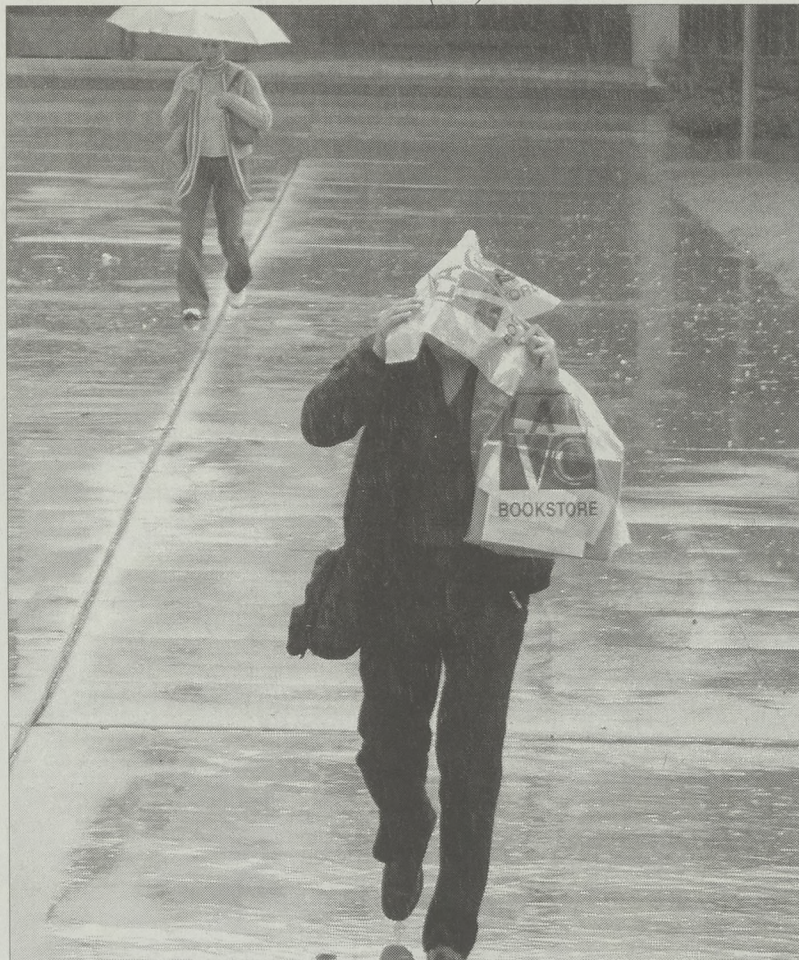
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JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

**UNPREPARED**- A Los Angeles Valley Colleges student takes shelter.



OPINION

Business As Usual

By Michael Ordoña, Editor in Chief

■ Neither new nor improved, but you'd better buy now.

The doctor is out. On the eve of the now-ironically named "Super Tuesday," the drama of the race has all but ended as only two serious candidates remain — one with three times as many delegates as the other. The establishment has apparently gifted us with Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, leaving once seemingly unbeatable Gov. (and Dr.) Howard Dean to be associated with the likes of Thomas Dewey and the '86 Red Sox.

The results to date have reduced the races in New York and California to little more than victory laps for the heir apparent. Kerry may not exactly be a thrilling choice, unless you count his resemblance to Boris Karloff's Mummy or Frankenstein's Monster (let's go with Frankenstein; Ann Coulter is the Mummy), but he has an excellent chance of riding a wave of discontent to the White House. It's the ABBA effect: Anyone But the Bush Administration.

Still, this has to be viewed as a disappointment, considering that only two months ago it looked like some real change was possible.

Dean is a beltway outsider with little patience for special interest groups, politically convenient voting and business as usual. His contributions came from ordinary individuals, so that's who he was beholden to — the taxpayer, the citizen, the soccer mom, the student. He staunchly criticized the war in Iraq before it was popular to dissent — at a time when right-wing commentators were openly accusing dissenters of treason (see the Mummy's yellowing scrolls). Needless to say, this hip-shooting Vermont doctor was not therapeutic to the Democratic powers that be.

The establishment candidates (Sens. Lieberman, Kerry and Richard Gephardt) banded together to relentlessly attack Dean for several months. At every turn, these career politicians — each of whom voted to authorize the war in Iraq and none of whom offered serious resistance to the USA PATRIOT Act or the first two rounds of Bush's tax cuts — sniped at Dean, often spending most of their allotted debate time ripping him rather than detailing their own plans. Even the respectable papers confused these coordinated assaults with news, asking, "Wasn't that interesting when Lieberman waved that form in the air and accused Dean of dodging the question?"

And when Dean confused the fantasy film, "The American President," with campaign reality and responded to this incessant barrage, the establishment candidates backed off en masse. "Why are you so angry, Howard?" was their message. "Do you have to campaign so negatively?" And guess what the papers published and the talking heads blabbered about? Suddenly it was Dean who was the angry, negative campaigner and the others who were virtuously taking the high road.

Howard's hootenanny in Iowa didn't help. It was a target of opportunity. The establishment had planted the notion of "electability" in the national debate. It told you, the voters, that no matter how many of you wanted to vote for Dean, and despite polls saying he could hold his own against Bush even before the president's current ratings drop, that you

weren't serious about voting for Dean. He wasn't really "electable." So when the good doctor tried to rally his troops after a disappointing defeat in Iowa, he was instantly branded a ranting lunatic. And his numbers fell off the table.

How much the establishment Democrats may have damaged themselves in this process remains to be seen.

The electorate may be just fed up enough with Bush to go the ABBA route. A Kerry / Edwards ticket might serve the country and the world well.

But it's hard not to see this election as the same old career politicians from the same old conveyor belt. It's business as usual.

The Booby Prize

By Katharine Anderson, Opinion Editor

■ One of the most respected honors in the world goes Bush league.

The nominations are in. Feb. 1 marked the deadline. And the results, which are supposed to be kept confidential for 50 years, are out. Of the 173 nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, one candidate stands out: President George W. Bush.

According to numerous news reports, he was nominated, along with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, for "protecting world peace." I wonder if the families of the fallen soldiers in Iraq feel protected. I wonder if the mothers and fathers of the innocent victims killed in Bush's War on Terrorism believe he is one of the world's great champions for peace.

The Nobel Peace Prize is a dead man's contribution to

creating a less violent society. In Alfred Nobel's will he instructed his executors to establish a fund that was to be awarded annually to those who, in the preceding year, have "done the most or the best work for fraternity between the nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

Bush's complete disregard for the United Nations' stand against invasion due to the failure to uncover weapons of mass destruction in Iraq has strained our relationships with numerous nations and is a far cry from creating fraternity between the nations.

Most members of the UN refused to support the war despite their ongoing troubles with Iraq, and publicly stated their dissent with Bush's tactics. And yet, he still went "searching," refusing to back out even when the search proved time and again to be fruitless.

is no denying what Iraq's gross national product means to the pockets of a select few in the U.S. Are we really expected to believe that this entire campaign has been based on creating world peace?

Let's look at some of the past recipients: Martin Luther King, Jr. for his campaign for civil rights; Mother Teresa, the leader of the Order of the Missionaries of Charity; the United Nations, for their work for a better organized and more peaceful world; and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts.

The actions of the Bush Administration and the ramifications that have followed, to put it lightly, pale in comparison to the legacy that these great soldiers of peace have left.

In 2002, Carter's receipt of the prize was openly viewed as a "kick in the leg" at Bush's policy on Iraq. Carter had previously said "it would be a tragic and costly error for the United States to attack Iraq without U.N. backing."

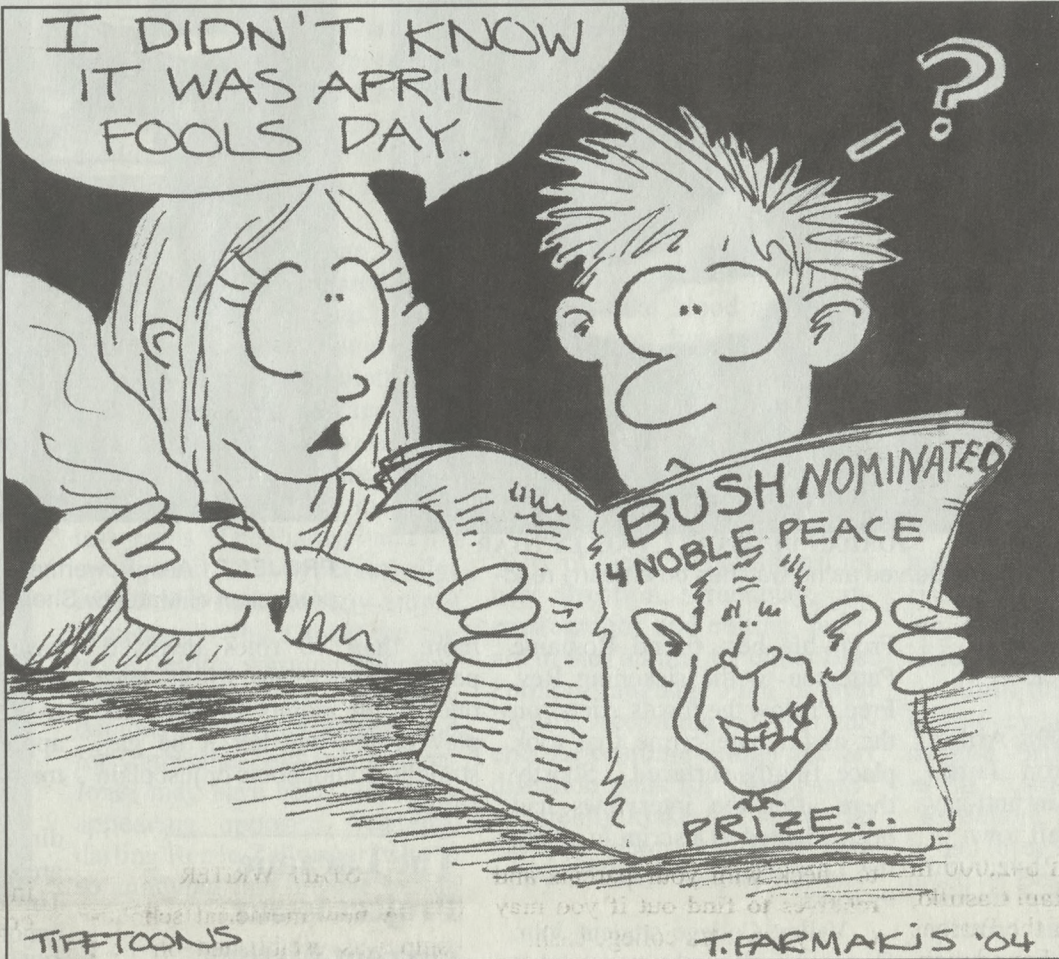


ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

In one of his many deceptions of the American people, Bush cried for peace while creating a war. Our country's soldiers are dying under the command of a leader whose agenda is not what he wants us to believe it is. Think about the profits to be gained from having a leader in Iraq who is loyal to our country, or should I say, our president. There

Chairman of the Nobel Committee Gunnar Berge, told reporters "With the position Carter has taken... (the award) can and must also be seen as criticism of the line the current U.S. administration has taken on Iraq."

Of course, a nomination does not secure a win. After all, in 1938 Adolf Hitler was nominated.

Contact The Valley Star at thevalleystar@yahoo.com, drop by the newsroom at BJ114 or call us at (818) 947-2576. Letters should be limited to 300 words and may be edited for publication.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES. THIS WEEK: SHOULD ILLEGAL ALIENS BE BANNED FROM ATTENDING U.S. COLLEGES?

■ Make your voice heard! Participate in the online poll at [www.lavalleystar.com](http://www.lavalleystar.com)

A Hard Lesson

By Katharine Anderson, Opinion Editor

Break law, receive reward.

That is the message the country is sending to illegal aliens by allowing them to attend state colleges and pay only in-state tuition fees. These individuals, in our country illegally, pay less than an American citizen attending an out-of-state college. Their tuition at Valley College is one-seventh of what a Japanese national, here legally on a student visa, has to pay. Let me get this straight: the law-abiders are fined?

Virginia recently took the first step in a long-overdue overhaul of this country's existing immigration policies. On Feb. 5, in a 71-29 vote, the House approved a bill to ban illegal aliens from attending state colleges and sent it to the Senate Education and Health Committee for consideration. The bill would require public colleges and universities to ban enrollment for illegal aliens and expel any who are currently enrolled.

Some call this action un-American.

Hogwash.

While America is touted as the land of opportunity, it still has laws. Virginia is not looking to take these individuals' dreams away; it is merely enforcing the law. Yes, these students reside in a given area, and have attended school all of their lives in the U.S., but as adults they have a responsibility to the government and citizens

of the country that assisted and supported them throughout their childhood education.

Who pays the taxes that are allocated for the education of children? Citizens of this country. When we enter the workforce, whether as teenagers or adults, we pay income taxes. These taxes then pay for the education of children, including those here illegally.

When these undocumented children grow up, turn 18 and claim their adulthood, they want to continue on the free ride given by taxpayers to obtain a higher education. They demand their right to take seats from the children of tax-paying citizens who want to attend college. These are the children of the tax-paying citizens who funded the undocumented children's schooling.

Under California's AB 540, illegal aliens are given a break on college tuition fees. They are required to meet just three simple criteria and then are allowed to skate through college, receiving more benefits than some

U.S. citizens. If they attended a California high school for three continuous years, graduated or received a GED and sign a piece of paper promising to obtain legal status, they qualify. According to the Valley College website, "the college is not required to explore the student's eligibility for legalization of residency status nor is the college required to monitor future changes in eligibility." So, sign a piece of paper and you can pay less than that sweet, small-town aspiring starlet from Georgia, who never broke a law in her life.

Even if the bill does not pass the senate, Virginia lawmakers have sent the federal government a wake-up call. Most companies will not hire someone without the proper documentation to work in our country. The country will have intelligent, highly educated illegal aliens, whose education will not even give them the opportunity to ask "Would you like fries with that?"

Sins of the Fathers

By Jacqui Brown, Staff Writer

The American dream is being held hostage by predominantly Republican politicians in Virginia (let's not forget this is an election year) who are seeking to kick out existing college students and bar high school graduates who are illegal aliens, even though they currently pay out-of-state tuition.

These children, who have been raised here and have known this country as their homeland, are going to be punished for the sins of their fathers.

The chances of many of these students coming up with the nearly-tripled tuition, is like trying to pull a rabbit out of a hat, considering their parents are also undocumented and more than likely working for minimum wage or less.

Del. John S. "Jack" Reid

(R-Henrico), sponsor of the legislation to take action against these illegal students, the same legislation that was vetoed last year by Virginia Gov. Mark R. Warner, said "It's not fair for a person in this country illegally to take the seat of a full blooded American."

This is the same Einstein who tried to pass a bill in 2001 allowing liquor stores to give out free shots in hopes of boosting liquor sales.

Well Jack, that's just one more reason to vote Democratic this year.

If you ask any company that is looking to establish a business, they'd be hard pressed to tell you they were looking for anything other than well-educated employees.

Let's get real here! We've given these kids, who have only studied American history, twelve years as "virtual citizens."

That's just enough time to believe that the American dream is possible and that their parents' effort to create a better life for

them, no matter what the sacrifices, was worth the price.

We led these children to believe that education could change their future, only to have some fool politician try to slam that door shut.

Tsk, tsk Jack.

California, Texas and several other states circumvent the law of out-of-state tuition, basing their in-state tuition policies for the illegal alien population, not by whether the student is a resident of the state, but by whether the student graduated from an in-state high school after three years of continuous attendance.

This makes sense but other states disagree and argue that this is a flagrant disobedience of federal law.

Well, when the student population of illegal aliens is so large in number, it would be like cutting off your nose to spite your face.

The old adage of 'do the best you can with what you have' rings true among those not afraid to seek change and fairness in a world that sometimes makes no sense at all.

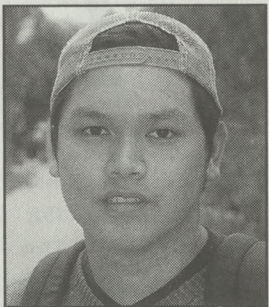
It's obvious that these politicians seeking to change what works have other agendas. With the terrorism attack on America and the new homeland security issues, politicians are touting this as reason to assume that all foreign students are suspect.

The vision to provide an environment where all students are prepared to become productive individuals has been submerged, once again, in political mire.

These politicians could spend their time more wisely fighting for a just and equal education rather than sentencing these students to a life of "Would you like fries with that?"

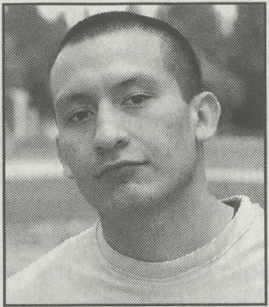
Campus View

PHOTOS BY (SCOTT HOWARD)



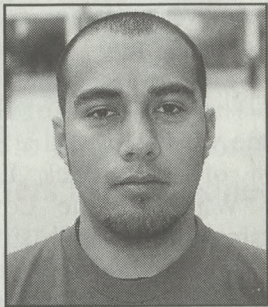
"If they don't have status, they shouldn't go to our schools."

- Brian Agpaoa



"Regardless of who they are, if they want an education they should get one."

- Rodrigo Minguez



"Everyone has a right to get an education regardless of their citizenship."

- Chris Rivera



"It becomes a problem when people [who are citizens] can't get the classes they need."

- Megan Winchell

How do you feel about illegal aliens attending state universities?



## WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

Campus events in bold.

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25**  
A.S.U. Club Day  
Monarch Square  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Black Heritage  
Celebration**  
Monarch Hall  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.

**February is Black  
History month and  
LAVC is hosting  
author/motivational  
speaker Tony McGee  
as well as a presenta-  
tion awards and soul  
food.**

**THURSDAY, FEB. 26**  
The Stills w/Denali  
Troubador  
9081  
Santa Monica Blvd.  
Hollywood, CA 90069  
8:00 p.m.  
\$12.00/Door

'This Montreal quartet has exploded into the music scene in 2004 after a short run last year with Ryan Adams. *Logic Will Break Your Heart* is an album worth paying for and keeping in your everyday CD rotation.'

**FRIDAY, FEB. 27**  
The Zombies  
Key Club  
9039 Sunset Blvd.  
LA, CA 90069  
8:30 p.m.  
\$23.00

'The year is 1962 and these London based boys broke out with their worldwide #1 "She's Not There." A short lived career that influened greats such as the Kinks and the Doors is coming back with an intimate show on the strip.'  
Off-Campus Event  
Description if nec.  
Location  
Time a.m./p.m.  
Price

### Tickets Now On Sale:

Modest Mouse  
3/23-3/29

Aussi Invasion Tour  
feat. The Vines and Jet  
4/7

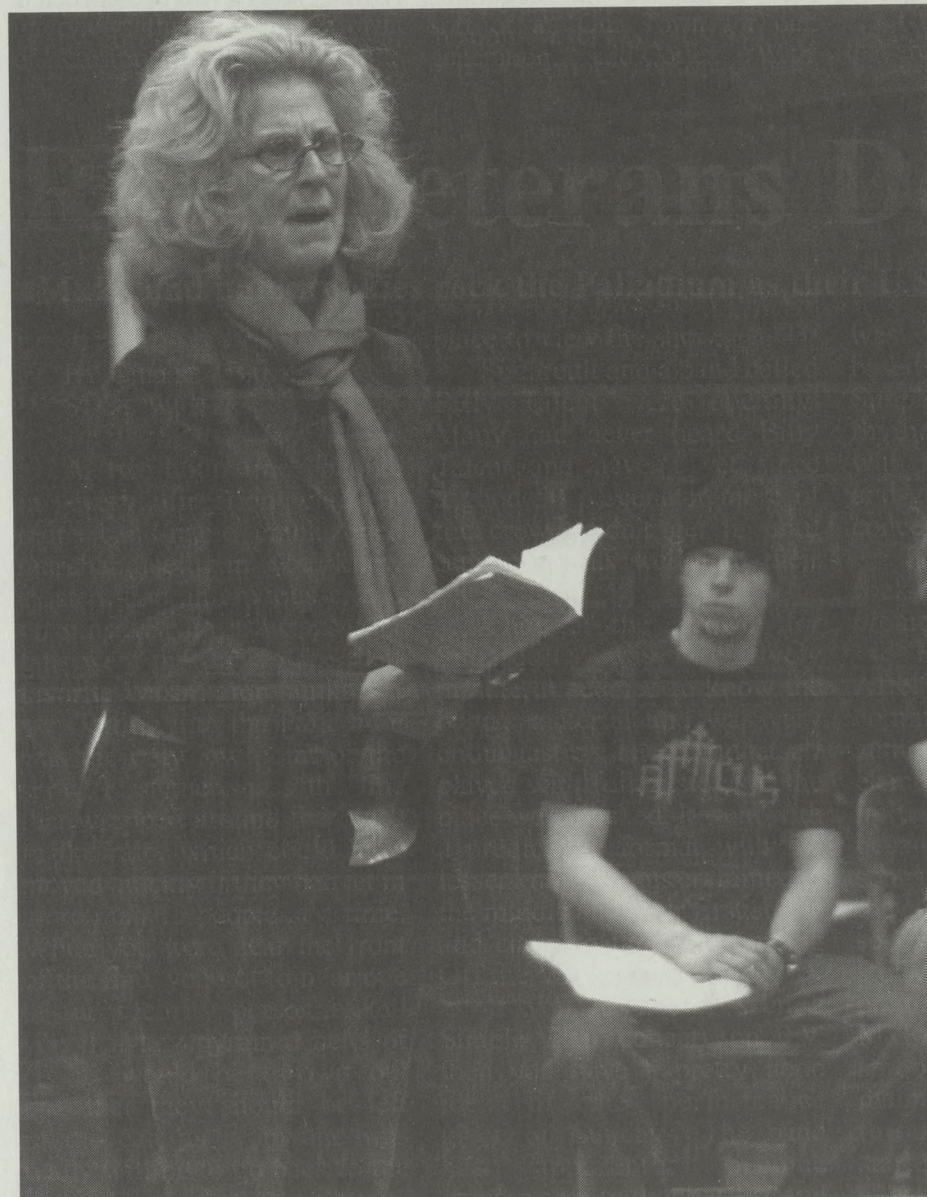
The Darkness  
4/17

Coachella  
5/1-5/2

Rated the best music festival in 2003, the Indio polo fields bring headliners The Pixies (reuniting for the first time in 10 years), The Cure, Flaming Lips, and Radiohead.

There will be more campus events to come as the semester progresses.

# Valley Brings Life To Laramie



JORDAN DINAPOLI / VALLEY STAR

**COLD READING** - Tim Miller observes as he watches on an early reading of The Laramie Project

By PETER O'CONNOR  
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

On October 12, 1998, Arthur Henderson and Aaron James McKinney committed an anti-gay hate crime in the small town of Laramie, Wyoming. 21-year-old University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard was brutally beaten and tied to a fence post; Sheppard is no longer with us, but his legacy remains.

Beginning one month after his death until two years following, interviews throughout the town of Laramie were conducted.

From his best friend Romaine Patterson to the sickening Rev. Fred Phelps, the towns' views on the awful hate crime that took place finally surfaced. Shortly there after the interviews had been adapted to a script in which the Laramie Project established its roots.

Valley College student John Cortez has brought to us what he sees as a part of our current history in which every person can relate to.

"The Laramie Project is sort of an Our Town for our generation," said Cortez. "With

more than 70 roles involved, people can relate to at least one of the points of view the play offers; whether it be gay, straight, homophobic or just plain hatred."

**The Laramie  
Project is our  
current history  
which every per-  
son can relate to.**

The Valley Collegiate Players that are putting on the show each



JORDAN DINAPOLI / VALLEY STAR

**PROJECT** - Alex Bowerman reads on with emotion as the VCP prepares for their upcoming production of Matthew Shepard's story

have anywhere from five to seven roles apiece in which they get to explore their characters and apply their acting abilities in many forms.

"I worked on a play John directed a year ago and it was a great learning experience," said Tim Miller, a 20-year-old theater major. "When I saw the play at CSUN and then found out John was bringing it to Valley, I did not hesitate to jump on board such an influential piece of work."

This timely piece displays what honest awful hate there is out in the world today. With issues

such as gay marriage and the stereotypes involved with racial profiling, The Laramie Project reflects upon each and every one of us.

"I chose to do The Laramie Project because of the humanistic values it gets across to the viewer," said Alex Bowerman who plays the role of Shepard's best friend Romaine Patterson. "It really opens people up to an opinion on the issue, whether it be gay, non-gay or just wanting to share how they feel."

The Laramie Project hits the Horseshoe Theater March 25th.

# Rock Veterans Deliver Punk Rawk

■ MxPx and punk rookies rock the Palladium as their U.S. tour comes to an end this week.

By CHELSEA BANKS  
STAFF WRITER

A two-hour line, people in every direction clad in more band-name emblazoned merchandise than you knew existed, and an anxious crowd on Sunset Blvd was what MxPx fans went through to see their favorite Washington punks.

Getting into the Palladium was the only low point of the show. First there was the line that wrapped around the block in the rain, which could have moved quickly if they had let in more than 15 people at a time. When you were near the front of the line, you got to hear one of the security personnel tell you that any pyramid belts or chains would be thrown out and that they should be left in the car, as if anyone was really willing to go back to the car and through the line again. Finally you were misinformed by the guards who did the frisking and purse searching that umbrellas would have to be taken back to the car, causing many to abandon their umbrellas outside, when there was a coat and umbrella check-in just inside the door.

Even with a fraction of the expected audience roaming about and making a tight congregation around the stage, the two-story auditorium was crawling with people. With the freedom that can only be acquired with general admission tickets, people meandered to every corner of the floor and balconies in search of the best

place to view the show.

Sugarcult and a band called Billy Talent were opening. Many had never heard Billy Talent and haven't yet since a good 50 percent or more of the crowd didn't get in until Sugarcult was well into their set.

Though the crowd for Sugarcult was relatively minute, it seemed to know the band's material and was very enthusiastic. The band itself played with full gusto as if the place were packed. It went with a predictable format with the lesser known songs crammed in the middle and their first single and claim to fame, "Bouncing Off the Walls," at the end.

If you have ever seen a Simple Plan concert on TV, then you have a pretty good idea of the performance given on Sunday. The band has apparently become comfortable with a set list and format that they deliver nearly unvaryingly.

There was a lot of crowd participation and amusing banter and antics between songs. The high-light of their set came when they did a rock version of the 'Black Eyed Peas' "Where is the Love." Surprisingly, the lead singer didn't go through the verse rushed and staggered as often happens when rock bands do covers of hip-hop. Simple Plan performed the song as if it were their own.

Although Simple Plan had high energy as well as a highly responsive crowd, it was clear who the more seasoned band

was when the Washington based trio MxPx took stage. Simple Plan fans left and the rhythm of the show shifted with fans jumping, screaming and getting wild. This was a concert.

These 24-year-old punk-rock veterans, currently promoting their seventh album "Before Everything & After," instantly took full command of the stage and the audience, seeming to be in their element. Commonly misplaced in the Christian Rock genre because they consistently write songs about Jesus and faith, they played a clean yet secular set. While the previous bands stuck with typical formulas or gradually slowed the pace, MxPx interchanged tempos smoothly and frequently, maintaining the initial moxie throughout the set. They started and set the mood with a song from the new album called "Play It Loud." The lead singer tossing his bass-guitar pirouetting into the air only to catch it just in time to play the last note of a song, as well as switching guitars mid-song by tossing them across the stage simultaneously not only added to the show, but just plain looked cool. They ended on a high note with their first single "Punk Rawk Show."

MxPx left Los Angeles with as they always do, leaving ears ringing and heads banging as fans left soaking wet and back into the pouring rain. These old rockers went back to Seattle with yet another successful tour under their belt.

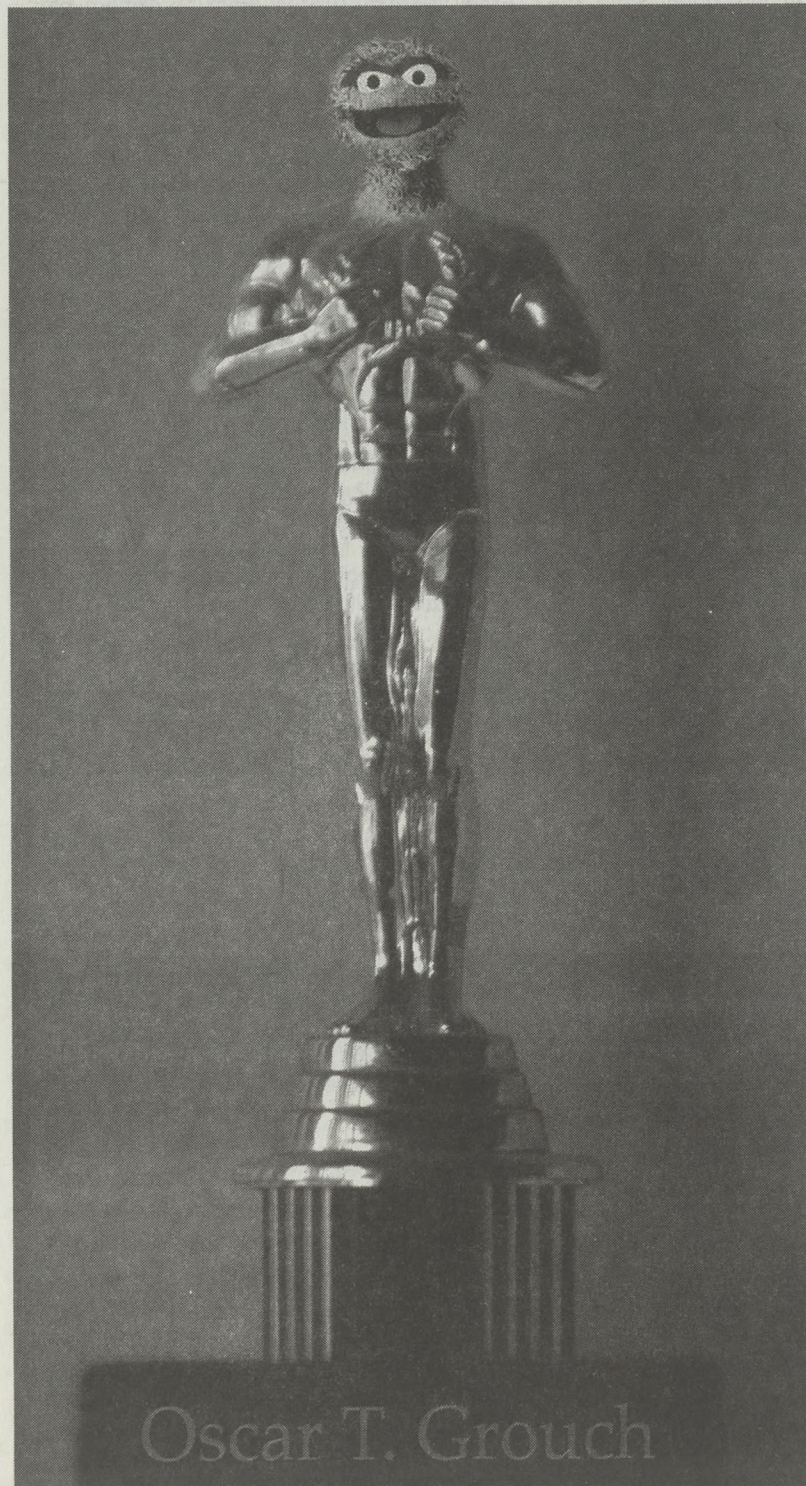




# VALLEY LIFE

5

## How Grouchy Is Oscar?



**OSCAR CONTEST!** Here's your chance to pick the winners in every category. The entrant with the most correct picks will win the DVD of a previous Best Picture winner. For details, visit our online edition at [www.lavalleystar.com](http://www.lavalleystar.com) and submit

■ **Despite occasional glimmers of hope, the Academy Awards display a remarkable knack for getting it wrong most of the time.**

BY MICHAEL ORDONA  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

There is no cultural award that carries more global weight than the little naked golden man. You can have your Pulitzers and Nobel Prizes; do you think more people can name three Pulitzer winners than can name three Oscar winners? The Grammys, the Emmys, the Tonys – nothing comes close to the pop culture prestige of the Academy Award. And yet the Oscars reward mediocrity, ignore innovation and contradict themselves almost every year.

For one thing, the voters seem chronically confused about what elements make up a great film, or at least one that is quantitatively better than another. If a movie wins for its screenplay, director and lead actor, that's a shoo-in for Best Picture, right? Apparently not if that movie is last year's "The Pianist" and it's up against the hyperactively-edited and resoundingly empty "Chicago," which took the big prize despite winning only one other major award – the very dubious supporting actress nod for Catherine Zeta-Jones. Zeta-Jones may have been helped by appearing opposite Academy darling Renée Zellweger, who is so annoying that anyone beside

her looks good.

Zellweger, by the way, is up this year for her pouty turn in the above-average "Cold Mountain." She's widely regarded as the front-runner.

Another such case of confusion occurred with the 2000 awards: "Traffic" won for direction, adapted screenplay, supporting actor and editing, beating "Gladiator" in every category in which the two films directly competed – except for Best Picture. "Gladiator," as derivative and forgettable as Hollywood gets, won some technical awards and an undeserved make-up trophy for Russell Crowe's lead performance. That's not make-up as in fake blood and beard maintenance, but make-up as in "We should have nominated you for 'L.A. Confidential' and you should have won for 'The Insider,' so here's your Oscar. Please stay away from my date."

This year, the Brazilian film, "City of God," is nominated for best direction, screenplay, cinematography and editing, but is not in the running for either Best Foreign Language Film or Best Picture. According to Oscar voters, the costume design and art direction nods for "Seabiscuit" apparently make it a more viable Best Picture candidate than "City of God" despite not hav-

your picks via e-mail or drop a hard copy at the newsroom (BJ 114). Hard copy picks must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 27. Good luck!

ing a director worthy of nomination.

Scarlett Johansson has been a fixture on critics' lists for her work in "Lost in Translation," and the Golden Globes nominated her twice this year as a leading actress, also citing her turn in "Girl with a Pearl Earring." The Academy was apparently not impressed, snubbing her completely. Meanwhile, Samantha Morton's good but not outstanding supporting work in "In America" has been nominated for lead actress honors, while that film's real standout, lead actor Paddy Considine, went unnoticed by the Oscars.

And then there's the category for original screenplay, in which such daring and rich works as "21 Grams," "The Cooler," "The Magdalene Sisters," "Bad Santa," "Bend It Like Beckham" and "The Station Agent" have been bypassed. What did make it in? "Finding Nemo," the cute but boilerplate cartoon about a lost fish, and the sometimes touching, sometimes clumsy and clichéd "In America."

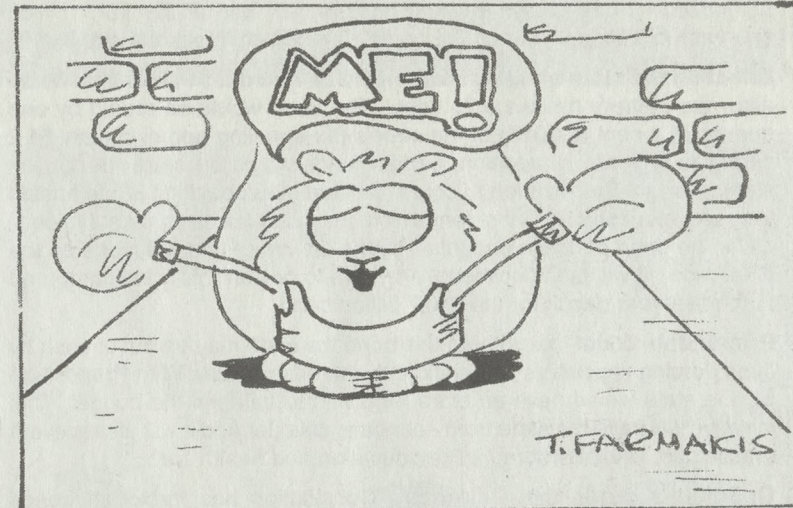
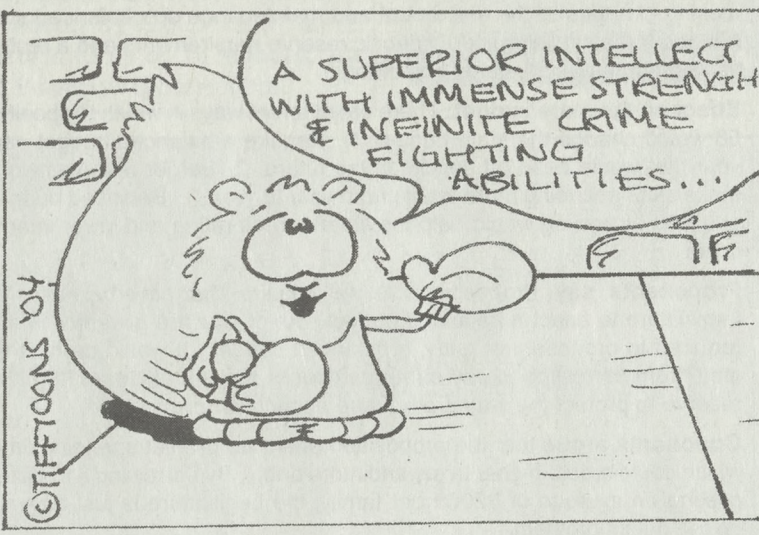
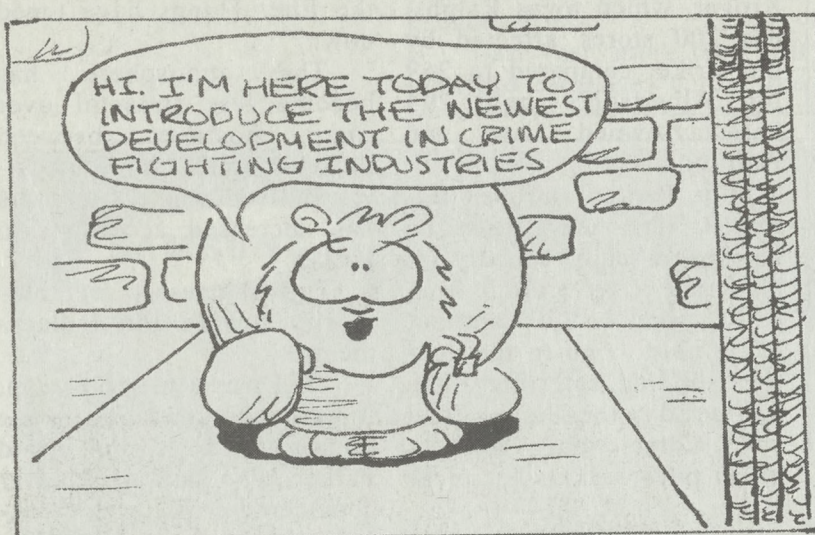
Until this year Bill Murray hadn't even been nominated despite brilliant performances in "Groundhog Day" and "Rushmore." Ang Lee essentially had three straight films nominated for Best Picture ("Wedding

Banquet" and "Eat Drink Man Woman" were foreign film nominees) but never received a directorial nomination until the amazing "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." He lost.

And all that doesn't even count such old guard greats as Peter O'Toole (career achievement only – and lost for "Lion in Winter" to Cliff Robertson in "Charly" – 'nuff said), Richard Burton, "Modern Times," "City Lights" and "Jean de Florette." Akira Kurosawa was only nominated once (for "Ran"); he lost but later received a career achievement award. Orson Welles and "Citizen Kane" won one – for writing – although Welles too received a career award later on.

Other recent black eyes to the Academy include Best Picture wins by "Out of Africa," "Chariots of Fire," "Driving Miss Daisy" and "Rocky" – a perfectly enjoyable flick, but it was up against "Network," "Taxi Driver," and "All the President's Men."

That being said, this year's field looks fairly solid in most categories, given such glaring omissions as "City of God," and Johansson. Nevertheless, on February 29, we can all watch the Academy find ways to embarrass itself all over again.



## DiFranco's One-Woman Garage

■ **Pioneering singer-songwriter returns with do-it-yourself album**

BY MICHAEL ORDONA  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Ani DiFranco has never cared about massive sales figures, always preferring to go her own way. Her new CD, "Educated Guess," finds our heroine still blazing her own trail but probably not exactly winning friends and influencing people.

DiFranco made all the noises on the new record, wrote all the material, produced it and mixed it on prehistoric analog reel-to-reel. The result is much rougher than her recent, often funk-flavored work, sometimes sounding like a one-woman garage band.

"Educated Guess" is a throw-

back collection for the poster grrrl of independent labels, with instrumentation and production often similar to earlier efforts like "Not a Pretty Girl" & "Not So Soft." But even limiting herself to her mixer's eight tracks, her arrangements reflect some of the complexity of her post-"Living in Clip" experiments. Her collaborations with musicians such as Maceo Parker and Prince have left a mark on her, albeit a less-than-indelible one.

The standout cuts include the sassy jazz of "Bliss Like This," the haunting "Company" and the lovely title song. As always, DiFranco is as at home carressing a melody with a mournful lilt as she is growling and barking her displeasure. Lest this extraordinarily beautifully-packaged album seem downright accessible, though, these semi-radio ready songs are imbedded between spoken word pieces ("Grand Canyon," "The True Story of What Was") and atmospheric neo-folk noodling ("\*").

Lyrically, "Educated Guess" has nothing with the audacious

brilliance of, say, "The Diner" or "Letter to a John," and at times the observations of relationships seem downright un insightful. Still, DiFranco occasionally hits us with saucy wordplay as in "Grand Canyon": "People, we are standing at ground zero / of the feminist revolution / Yeah, it was an inside job / Stoic and sly / One we're supposed to forget / and downplay and deny / But it think the time is nothing / if not nigh / to let the truth out / Coolest f-word ever deserves a f\*\*\*\*\* shout!"

In "Literal," she takes a snip-er shot at rigid interpretations of religious texts: "When they said he could walk on water / What it sounds like to me / Is he could float like a butterfly / And sting like a bee."

This is a DiFranco album that fans are likely to love in that it's a back-to-the-roots effort that doesn't surrender the gains of her most recent collections. It's not likely to draw many neophytes, though.

How much the Righteous Babe herself cares about that is questionable indeed.

THE  
VALLEY STAR  
welcomes your comments and criticism.

E-mail us at  
[TheValleyStar@yahoo.com](mailto:TheValleyStar@yahoo.com)

or drop us a line at  
BJ114.

Be sure to include your name and contact information.

Please limit your letters to 200-300 words. Letters may be edited for publication.

(818) 947-2576

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DUANE MARTIN CHRISTOPHER WIEHL CHARISMA CARPENTER  
AT THE WEDDING WHERE EVERYTHING GOES...  
EVERY GIRL KNOWS

# WHAT BOYS LIKE

STARTS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH  
AT A SELECT THEATRE NEAR YOU!  
CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORIES FOR SHOWTIME INFORMATION



# THE VALLEY STAR ELECTION PREVIEW

What you need to know to make informed decisions on the ballot issues Tuesday, March 2

By TIFFANY FARMAKIS, STAFF WRITER

## Prop. 55

Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2004

**The Current Situation:** Public education in California consists of two separate systems: local school districts that provide elementary and secondary (kindergarten - 12<sup>th</sup> grade or "K - 12") education to 6.2 million pupils and higher education which includes the California Community Colleges (CC), the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC), providing education to 1.6 million full - time students. K - 12 schools receive funding for construction from two main sources - state general obligation bonds (GOB) and local obligation bonds. Higher education schools receive funding from general obligation bonds and gifts/grants. For GOB's, the schools must pay the principle and interest.

**What Proposition would do:** This measure would allow the state to issue \$12.3 billion of general obligation bonds for construction and renovation of K - 12 school facilities (\$10 billion) and higher education facilities (\$2.3 billion).

**Fiscal Effect:** The cost on these bonds depends on their interest rates and time period over which they are repaid. If these bonds are sold at the current interest for its type (5.25%) and repaid over 30 years, the total cost would be approximately \$24.7 billion with an average payment of around \$823 million per year.

**Proponents claim** that more than 22,000 new classrooms are needed to relieve overcrowding. Proposition 55 would match state funds on such projects. It would enact stricter accountability standards that ensure school bond funds go directly into repairing and building new classrooms. These projects can create new jobs that will help California's economy. Supporters say Proposition 55 will not raise taxes.

**Opponents argue** that Proposition 55 would only add to the state's debt. Bond funds can only be repaid by taxes; it's preposterous to believe that taxes wouldn't be raised. Proponents fail to mention that the money will only be spent in districts wealthy enough to raise the 40 percent matching funds. There is no guarantee your district would even receive funds, but you would still be required to pay them off.

**Proponents include:** Barbara Kerr, president of the California Teachers Association; Catherine L. Unger, president of the Board of Governors, California Community Colleges; and Larry McCarthy, president of the California Taxpayers' Association.

**Opponents include:** Rico Oller, State Senator of the First Senate District; Lew Uhler, president of the National Tax - Limitation Committee;

## Prop. 56

The Budget Accountability Act

**The Current Situation:** The state budget bill provides funding for most state government programs. Before the bill is sent to the governor for approval, it must be passed by a two-thirds vote (67 percent) from the Legislature. The same holds true for the passage of bills that increase taxes. The State Constitution requires legislative passage of the budget bill by June 15 every year while bills that increase taxes take effect immediately. It does not provide a deadline for the Legislature and Governor to come to final agreement on the budget bill.

**What Proposition would do:** This initiative would allow the Legislature to approve the annual budget and tax increases with a 55 percent vote. For each day the budget is late, both the Legislature and Governor will incur salary penalties. This measure also requires that 25 percent of the state revenue increases be deposited into a reserve fund, which can not be used to increase spending.

**Effect on the state budget:** Proposition 56 would create differing economic impacts such as lowering the legislative voting requirement for tax increases and requiring changes in spending. This can lead to increases in state tax revenues, although most fiscal impacts would depend primarily on the composition and actions of future legislatures.

**Proponents claim** this will make legislators responsible for their budget actions. It will help reduce partisan gridlock and help prevent overspending in times of economic prosperity and budget deficits when times are rough.

**Opponents argue** this would make it too easy for the Legislature to increase taxes. This proposition disguises itself as a means of holding legislators accountable when it's really handing a blank check to the same politicians it claims to discipline.

**Supporters include:** Jacqueline Jacobberger, president of the League of Women Voters of California; Lenny Goldberg, executive director of the California Tax Reform Association; and Carl Niño, president of the California State PTA.

**Opponents include:** Betty Jo Toccoli, Chair, California Small Business Roundtable; Larry McCarthy, president of the California Taxpayers' Association; Allan Zaremberg, president of the California Chamber of Commerce; Martyn B. Hopper, California State Director of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB); and David Herman, executive director of the Seniors Coalition

## Measure R

The Safe and Healthy Neighborhood Schools Improvement Act of 2004

**The Current Situation:** The Los Angeles area has not passed a local school bond since 1963. From 1980 to 1997 student enrollment has increased by an average of 8,406 students per year. New classroom space was created for less than 2,000 new students per year, leaving 6,400 students to cram into old classrooms, resulting in overcrowding.

**What Initiative would do:** Measure R is a \$3.87 billion neighborhood school bond initiative that would provide for basic repairs on older schools and build new neighborhood schools to reduce overcrowding. Many schools in the district are more than 60 years old and in need of repairs, such as upgrading fire safety systems, improving plumbing and electrical systems and removing the hazards of lead paint and asbestos. Passing this bond measure in March will also qualify the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) for \$1.5 to \$2 billion in state matching funds, crucial funding given the state's current budget crisis.

**Fiscal Effect:** The cost to property owners would be no more than \$5 per month per \$100,000 of assessed - not market - property value.

**Proponents claim** that 50 neighborhood schools would be built throughout the Los Angeles area, providing 49,162 new student seats. This measure would switch some districts with year-round schooling to the more traditional nine-month calendar with free summers. The bond money would be used strictly for the purpose of repairing and rebuilding schools. It would not be used for administrators' salaries or other operating costs.

**Opponents argue** that the district should exhaust previous bonds first then eliminate what they perceive to be "frills". They criticize the legislation as being "poorly written" and claim it's harmful to property owners who will have to pay more for basic city services.

**Proponents include:** California State PTA President Carl Niño and The Los Angeles Times.

**Opponents include:** Council President Ignacio De La Fuente (San Antonio-Fruitvale); and Oakland Police Officer's Association President Robert Valladon.

*Space prohibits the listing of other races, candidates and local measures on the ballot. For more information (including complete listings), visit the following nonpartisan websites: [www.ca.gov](http://www.ca.gov) and [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org).*

**Propositions 57 and 58 are linked. If one fails, neither takes effect.**

## Prop. 57

The Economic Recovery Bond Act

**The Current Situation:** California's General Fund budget contributes to a variety of programs, including public schools, higher education, health, social services, and prisons. The General Fund has experienced chronic shortfalls between revenues and expenditures since 2001.

**What Proposition would do:** This proposition authorizes the state to issue a bond of up to \$15 billion to deal with the budget deficit. The bond authorized by this measure would be used in place of the \$10.7 billion bond authorized last year by the Legislature to help cloak the shortfall.

**Effect on the state budget:** There would be an extra \$4 billion that would allow the state to refinance its debt. The bond would be repaid by one quarter of a cent (\$.0025) of the state's tax equaling approximately \$1.2 billion each year. In addition, certain funds would be set aside for the state's Budget Stabilization Account (created by proposition 58) to hasten the repayment process. If revenue from the sales tax does not sufficiently cover the bond principle and interest, the General Fund will make up the difference. It will take between 9-14 years to pay off this bond compared to the five-year payoff for the \$10.7 billion bond.

**Proponents claim** that without this bond the state may be out of cash by June, forcing legislators to significantly increase taxes. With Proposition 57, the state would have an extra \$4 billion to balance the budget. This initiative will save the state from economic disaster and it will also prevent drastic cuts in vital programs like education and health care.

**Opponents argue** that California's Constitution has forbidden bonds like this from being used to cover up the deficit. Excessive borrowing is the reason why the state is in debt and carries the lowest credit rating in the country. Proposition 57 only adds to that debt. Long-term bonds are used to pay for building projects that will serve the community. This bond doesn't buy a single school, road or park. Supporters are being hypocritical. They claim spending is out of control, but at the same time refuse to cut it.

**Proponents include:** Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger; Larry McCarthy, president of the California's Taxpayers' Association; and Allan Zaremberg, president of the California Chamber of Commerce

**Opponents include:** California State Senator Tom McClintock and California State Senator Bill Morrow.

## Prop. 58

California Balanced Budget Act

**The Current Situation:** Since 2001, the state has acquired large deficits and engaged in a significant amount of borrowing. The state anticipates another major shortfall in 2004 - 2005 along with a variety of other obligations, such as deferrals and loans from special funds, which are outstanding at this time.

**What Proposition would do:** This initiative would amend the Constitution making changes to the enactment and maintenance of a balanced state budget, the establishment of specific reserve requirements and a restriction on future deficit related borrowing.

**Effect on the state budget:** There are different ways in which Proposition 58 would change the state budget: 1. Require a balanced budget each year that would head off deficits in the future. 2. Larger reserves would make state spending more stable from year to year. 3. Balanced budgets and less borrowing would help the state's credit rating and lower interest costs.

**Proponents say** Proposition 58 will require the governor and the Legislature to enact a balanced budget. As of now the governor is only required to propose, not ratify, a balanced budget. It would prohibit the state from borrowing to pay off future deficits and set aside an \$8 billion reserve to protect the state from future economic downturns.

**Opponents argue** that the proposition offers no pre-set spending limits which could create higher taxes and more debt. By borrowing \$15 billion, costing an average of \$2000 per family, the Legislature is just covering up the deficit problem.

**Proponents include:** Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger; Jenny Oropeza, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee; Bill Hauck, Chair, California Constitution Revision Commission; and Allan Zaremberg, president of the California Chamber of Commerce.

**Opponents include:** Richard Rider, Chair, San Diego Tax Fighters; Bruce Henderson, president of the Association of Concerned Taxpayers; and Joe Armendariz, executive director of the Santa Barbara Taxpayers Association.

*Space prohibits the listing of other races, candidates and local measures on the ballot. For more information (including complete listings), visit the following nonpartisan websites: [www.ca.gov](http://www.ca.gov) and [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org).*

## 'Suicide'

continued from page 1

those around them to recognize suicidal behavior and [give them] ways to offer hope and assistance," explained King.

At the seminar King provided Valley students with facts to dispel some of the myths and misconceptions about suicide and offered a number of ways to get help if you or a loved one are at risk. He urged students to visit the Health Center if they have any questions or need help.

"We have so many bright and promising students and we want to help them make it through school," said King.

## 'TRACK'

continued from page 1

by .55 percent in order to make Universal Preschool a statewide reality.

"This will impact all of L.A., and child care profes-

Without help, many people choose death as a way to end their emotional pain.

"Suicide risk runs in families. We know that a family with a history is more vulnerable because of the genetic component of depression," said King. Risk factors in adults include depression, alcohol abuse, cocaine use, and separation or divorce. Physical or sexual abuse and disruptive behavior can also trigger suicidal tendencies.

Other possible warning signs include personality changes and risky behavior. King explained that people who exhibit a reckless disregard for their own life by driving at excessive speeds or

sionals must respond to this," said Roosevelt of the county program, noting that part of TRACK's mission is to "get students to think bigger" about the career opportunities that will be available. "There will be more children's

acting out in dangerous ways are likely at high risk.

King explained that even if someone just talks about ending their own life it is crucial to respond and intervene.

Psychology major Jane Kim attended the seminar to help her understand the suicide of a family friend. "My friend killed herself one night and it was a total shock," explained Kim. "We knew her husband had a bad temper but we never thought she felt so bad. It happened more than twenty years ago and it still hurts me to wonder if there was something I could have done."

Professional and confidential help is available free to all students enrolled at Valley. If you need help or would like more information, go to Student Psychological Services located at the Student Health Center in the North Gym, or call (818) 778-5504.

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## 'Demographics'

continued from page 1

tional college age on campus.

"By going to school, I am trying to set a good example for my kids," said computer science major Yvonne Paulus, "I tell them education is a privilege, it's up to you to make the most of it."

According to Associate Dean of Research and Planning Dr. Cherine Trombley, the mean age of a Valley College student is 28.

"You can't say that a community college is only high school students," said Trombley. "We have a lot of adults going here."

## 'Strike'

continued from page 1

feelings toward the picketers," he said. "Most of them don't even know what they are fighting for."

The grocery chains insist that, although the cuts are unfortunate, they are necessary to remain competitive. "Strikes are not good; no one ever wins them," said Kroger CEO David Dillion in an interview with the Los Angeles Times on Jan. 27. Kroger, which owns Ralphs, has 300 stores affected by the strike, compared to 259 for Albertson's and 293 Safeway-owned Vons and Pavilions.

For Parker and her fellow strikers, being on strike has been a major adjustment. "It's not easy going from \$300 a week to \$100 and not being able to go to the doctor," she said, referring to the \$20 per day the United Food and Commercial Workers union pays strikers for picketing.

When she had the flu, she stayed at home without access to medical care and forfeited the pay.

Parker, who usually spends four days working four-hour shifts on the picket lines, says strikers initially earned \$40 per day, but the union had to cut back to save money.

"A lot of us feel abandoned," Parker says of the disconnection from UFCW. "We don't get a lot of direct information."

"These people are offered some of the best benefits in the U.S.," said Lewis. "To be honest with you, I am just taking the money while I finish school; as soon as I become certified as an EMT,

I am out of there."

Although picketers have received support from the American Federation of Teachers and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Parker estimates that only 25 percent of the initial striking force remains on the lines.

"Initially, it was pretty intense," Parker said. "There were a couple verbal altercations with customers crossing the line. Things have toned down."

The atmosphere has become less stressful over time; hostility between picketers and both customers and replacement workers has decreased according to Parker.

Parker doesn't feel animosity toward the replacements.

"If I was a young person, it would be appealing to me to make \$18 an hour," said Parker, who said she's never considered crossing the picket lines to return to work.

Kroger's employees should keep getting "good wages, quality healthcare, and fair pension," according to Dillion. "Ralphs has always provided its associates with those three things and ... that will not change. For me, the keyword here is balance."

Picket lines have been extended to areas where contracts will soon expire, including Northern California, Baltimore and Washington, D.C., according to UFCW officials.

"Kroger is going to break the Union," said Lewis. "People need to get off the picket lines and start looking for new jobs."

College student Amy Chung. "The professors here are very pro-active. I feel confident of having received all the necessary tools to transfer to a four-year college. I am looking into transferring to UCLA next fall."

Valley has come a long way from its initial enrollment of 438 students in 1949 to now. Along with the surrounding area, the college has grown.

"I think Valley College provides a good reflection of the community," said Paulus. "Its growing student body is so diverse. You wanna know what the [San Fernando] Valley is all about? Just walk the campus."



# 'Crime'

continued from page 2

## Car Burglar Sentenced

The suspect arrested for a string of car burglaries last semester was sentenced to 15 years in the State penitentiary.

Van Nuys resident Chris Flores, 33, confessed to approximately 200 thefts at Valley College, Pierce College, CSUN and several shopping malls throughout the Valley.

Flores was arrested on the CSUN campus when police on routine patrol identified his car in one of their parking lots. Upon further investigation, police recovered several stolen items from the suspect's car.

An unidentified woman and two children, ages 1 and 5, were in the car at the time of the arrest. CSUN Det. Sgt. Dana Archer questioned the older child about a stereo that was on the floor by the child's feet and the child told him "Daddy broke the window of a car and took it."

## Attempted Grand Theft Auto

A car thief abandoned his attempt to steal a car in parking lot A earlier this month after a spare key, left in the glove compartment of the auto, failed to fit the ignition. It seems the vehicle had been broken into previous to this incident and the owner had changed the ignition switch but forgot to throw the old key out.

## Parking Passes

Police are asking that anyone who has had their parking pass stolen report it immediately to the campus police station.

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# Pell Grant Maximum Frozen Again

■ Amount is \$4,050 for the third consecutive year.

By LAGINA PHILLIPS  
NEWS EDITOR

President Bush's 2005 budget would keep the Pell Grant maximum for community college students at a standstill, despite record-high tuitions. Valley College's tuition will from \$18 per unit to \$26 per unit next semester and UC tuition will rise 30 percent across the board.

Financial Aid Director Barbara Ralston said, "15 to 20 percent of Valley College students receive Pell Grants."

The administration's budget proposes keeping the maximum Pell Grant award at \$4,050 for the third year in a row, according to the website American Association of Community Colleges.

"At a time of increasing tuitions forced by declining state and local support

for public higher education, freezing the Pell Grant maximum would be a severe blow to those who need it the most," according to the AACC site.

Almost 2 million community college students receive Pell Grants each year, but most students won't be getting any more money than they are currently receiving and some students will receive less than in previous years because of stricter criteria, according to the Department of Education. "Only full-time students get the maximum grant," said Ralston.

Current law prevents the Pell Grant program from lowering their value to cover a shortfall when more students apply for the grants than had been expected.

The president's budget proposal would change that. "The Pell Grant program

is already under tremendous strain even without the changes proposed by this administration," according to Congressman George Miller, D-Calif., as quoted on the AACC site. "Pell Grants are worth \$500 less than they were worth in 1975-76."

In 2003, the administration tried to eliminate 84,000

students from the Pell Grant program by using controversial criteria for eligibility, including revising tax tables used to calculate how much tuition a family can afford to pay on its own, but an amendment to the 2004 Education Appropriations bill prevented that.

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# "Click-Drive" Lets Students Fight Poverty

By JOHANA MAAS  
STAFF WRITER

With just one mouse click, Valley College students can help raise money for those in need. A new website is offering students a chance to get involved.

"The money is used to give small loans to the poorest of the poor, so that they can start their own business," said PovertyFighters.com representative Paul Adler.

PovertyFighters.com is a website administered by student activists Joshua Urdang, Corey Leaffer and Sarah Freidson at Brandeis University in Waltham, MA. The click-drive started Feb. 14, and runs until March 26. Each click donates 25 cents and the funding comes from the website's sponsors, so that no money comes out of the students' pockets or from school funds.

Last year, more than 300 college campuses across the

U.S. participated, raising more than \$35,000. Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, Iowa won with a participation rate equivalent to 90 percent of their student body. They were rewarded with a personalized video recorded by actors Rupert Everett and Sharon Stone.

"We want to get students to rally around, so that their campus can 'win'," said Paul Adler. "By winning, their campus raises money to fight poverty."

The website's sponsors, Calvert Funds, Novica, and the Greenstar Foundation will donate 25 cents per click to micro-credit programs in developing countries.

Recipients for the money raised are chosen by the Micro Credit Summit based on their dedication to provide micro-credit assistance to 100 million poor families, especially women, by 2005. For more information or to donate, go to PovertyFighters.com.



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## SPORTS

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## LAVC SCORES

**M. Basketball @ Santa Monica**

(L 71-75) 2/20/04

Final Record: 15-14, 7-5

**W. Basketball @ Santa Monica**

(L 61-75) 2/20/04

Final Record: 19-10, 10-2

**Baseball vs. Pasadena**

(postponed - rain) 2/20/04

Baseball Record: 0-10

**Softball @ Ventura**

(L 1-15) 2/20/04

Softball Record: 4-7

**Track & Field @ Cerritos****Men** 2/21/04

100-Meter

Arthur Sulcer 10.7

D'Andre Good 10.8

200-Meter

Ron Barrow 24.9

400-Meter

Gilbert Chavez 55.2

800-Meter

Phillip Parks 2:11.4

Long Jump

D'Andre Good 21'10"

"19" increase from first meet

**Women** 2/21/04

200-Meter

Astghik Tantoushian 31.5

400-Meter

Astghik Tantoushian 1:10.7

1500-Meter

Reyna Dominguez 5:49.4

3000-Meter

Reyna Dominguez 12:08.7

## LAVC SCHEDULE

**Wednesday 2/25/04**

No Scheduled Games

**Thursday 2/26/04**

Baseball @ Mission 2 p.m.

Softball vs. Pierce 2:30 p.m.

**Friday 2/27/04**

Swimming @ Mt. SAC All Day

Track &amp; Field @ TBA 2 p.m.

**So. Cal. Regional Playoffs**

W. Basketball (7) vs. Cypress (10) 7 p.m.

**Saturday 2/28/04**

Swimming @ Mt. SAC All Day

Baseball vs. Bakersfield 1 p.m.

**Sunday 2/29/04**

No Scheduled Games

**Tuesday 3/2/04**

Softball vs. Rio Hondo 2:30 p.m.

Baseball @ Bakersfield 3 p.m.

## PRO SCORES

**L.A. Lakers @ Phoenix Suns**

(W 104-92) 2/22/04

Kobe Bryant: 40 pts, 8-8 ft, 5 ast

Gary Payton: 20 pts, 5 ast, 5 rb

Shaquille O'Neal: 19 pts, 5 rb, 4 blk

LAL Record: 35-19

**L.A. Clippers @ Milwaukee Bucks**

(W 105-103) 2/21/04

Elton Brand: 31 pts, 10 rb, 5 ast

Cory Maggette: 19 pts, 8-8 ft, 9 rb

Quentin Richardson: 18 pts, 10 rb, 2 ast

LAC Record: 24-30

**L.A. Kings vs. Nash. Predators**

(W 3-0) 2/23/04

LAK Record: 24-17-14-7, 69 points

## NOTES

**LAVC**

Due to state budget cuts, the regional basketball playoffs have been shortened from 32 teams in the opening round to 16.

**NBA**

The league fined the Detroit Pistons \$200,000 Monday for playing forward Rasheed Wallace before the league confirmed his trade from the Atlanta Hawks.

**NBA**

Philadelphia 76'ers guard Allen Iverson said Monday that he will not join the team on its two-game road trip to Atlanta and Indiana in order to rest his sore right shoulder. Iverson hurt it Thursday when he collided with the scorers' table at Key Arena in Seattle.

**NBA**

Dallas Mavericks' owner will give away \$1 million from his own pocket this summer on a new ABC reality series called "The Benefactor."

**NBA**

Cleveland Cavaliers rookie guard LeBron James signed a four-year, \$5 million deal with Cadbury to endorse the company's chewing gum brands, primarily Bubblicious.

**NHL**

The Los Angeles Kings shutout the Nashville Predators 3-0 Monday at Staples Center to move up from ninth to a sixth-place tie with the Predators in the Western Conference.

**NHL**

Minnesota Wild goalie Dwayne Roloson will miss the team's road trip to Nashville and Dallas because his father, Albert, died of a stomach aneurysm Monday.

**MLB**

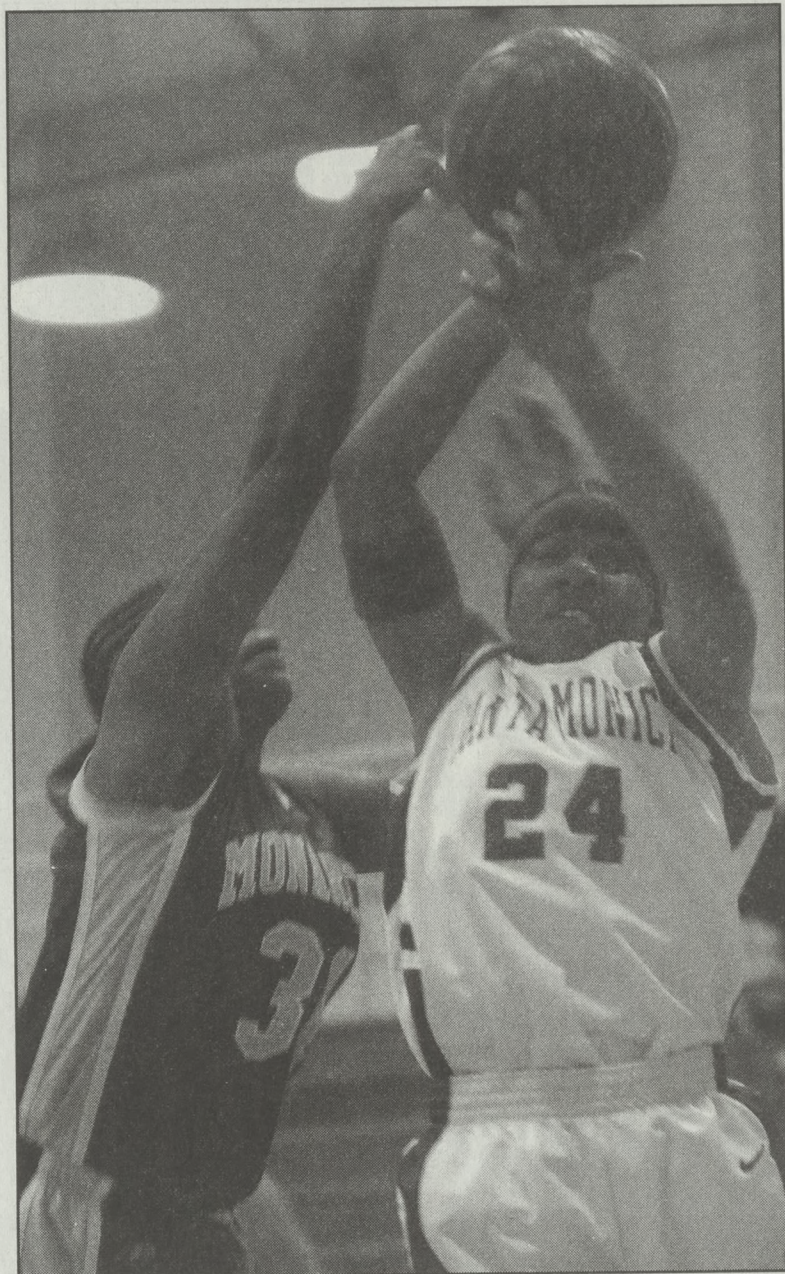
27-year veteran Hall-of-Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan signed a five-year personal services contract with the Houston Astros Tuesday. Ryan, the career strikeouts leader, will work anywhere from the front office to the field for his new post.

**MLB**

Reliever Francisco Rodriguez agreed to a one-year, \$375,000 contract with the Anaheim Angels Friday. Rodriguez was a respected reliever for the Angels during Anaheim's 2002 championship season.

## WSC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL - SEASON FINALE

## Corsairs Dethrone Monarchs



BOB TEICHMANN / VALLEY STAR

**REJECTION** - Monarch forward kareemah Bernard, left, slaps the ball away from Santa Monica guard Rhonda Johnson at the final game of the season February 20 at Corsair pavillion.

## ■ Lady Monarchs no longer at top spot.

BY SAM HAHN  
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Monarchs finished the regular season with a hard-fought 75-61 loss to Santa Monica College Friday. Sophomores Tiffany Maddox and Syretta Coleman contributed greatly as Maddox scored 11 points and Coleman snatched 9 crucial rebounds.

With that loss, the Lady Monarchs dropped to 10-2 in conference and 19-9 overall and failed to clinch the Western State Conference for the first time in three years.

Coach Mike Muro said he was concerned as the team prepares for the first round of the Southern California Regional Playoffs that start Feb. 27.

"(The playoffs) are up in the air," Muro said. "This team can show up and beat anybody as we have proved in the past, or we can go up and throw up a dud and lose to anyone. If our best team shows up in the playoffs, we can go really far."

The Lady Monarchs, led by Coleman, have had a difficult season.

"The entire year has been a struggle for us. But, I think that we showed a lot of heart

as a team and we came back and made amends of some of the mistakes we made in the beginning of the season," said Coleman, who has been named "WSC South Player of the Week" four times this season, and is ranked second in scoring in the WSC by averaging 19 points per game.

"Syretta has made a big impact on the court for us," Muro said. "She does a lot of different things that a lot of premier players don't do; she dives on loose balls and sacrifices her body for the team."

Another player who has made an impact this season is freshman guard Roxy Quintero, who averaged 14 points per game when Coleman missed the first six games of the season due to a family emergency in Chicago.

"We did well until now," Quintero said. "We let the conference championship slip away. We need to work hard as a team if we want to be successful."

The seventh seeded Lady Monarchs will compete in the Southern California Regional Playoffs at Valley against 10th seeded Cypress College Feb. 27.

First Round Southern California Regional Playoffs

CYPRUS CHARGERS Valley Glen, CA ■ Friday 7 p.m.

## 2004 So. Cal. W. Basketball Playoff Schedule

**Friday 2/27/04**

1. Mt. San Antonio (28-2) vs.

16. Riverside (16-11)

8. Fullerton (20-8) vs.

9. Cerritos (21-8)

Winners to meet March 3

5. Antelope Valley (23-7) vs.

12. Irvine Valley (16-9)

4. Canyons (22-5) vs.

13. Moorpark (19-9)

Winners to meet March 3

3. Pasadena (23-2) vs.

14. Orange Coast (14-14)

6. Saddleback (19-9) vs.

11. Imperial Valley (19-6)

Winners to meet March 3

7. L.A. Valley (19-10) vs.

10. Cypress (17-11)

2. Ventura (26-3) vs.

15. Chaffey (20-8)

Winners to meet March 3

**Wednesday 3/3/04**

Second Round -

Eight winners from Feb. 27

**Saturday 3/6/04**

Third Round -

Four winners from Mar. 3

**Fri-Sat 3/12-3/13/04**

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for game times.Official state stats  
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## WSC MEN'S BASKETBALL - SEASON FINALE

## Men's Basketball Fails to Reach WSC Playoffs

## ■ Valley men fall short of their first playoff run under a new coach.

BY SAM HAHN  
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College men's basketball team ended the regular season Friday with a 75-71 loss to Santa Monica College. The team finished the year with a 7-5 conference record and a 15-14 record overall, and failed to win its fifth consecutive Western State Conference-South title.

The Monarchs failed to make the playoffs after losing close conference games to College of the Canyons (which won the WSC conference), Citrus Bakersfield of college, and last place Santa Monica in the season finale.

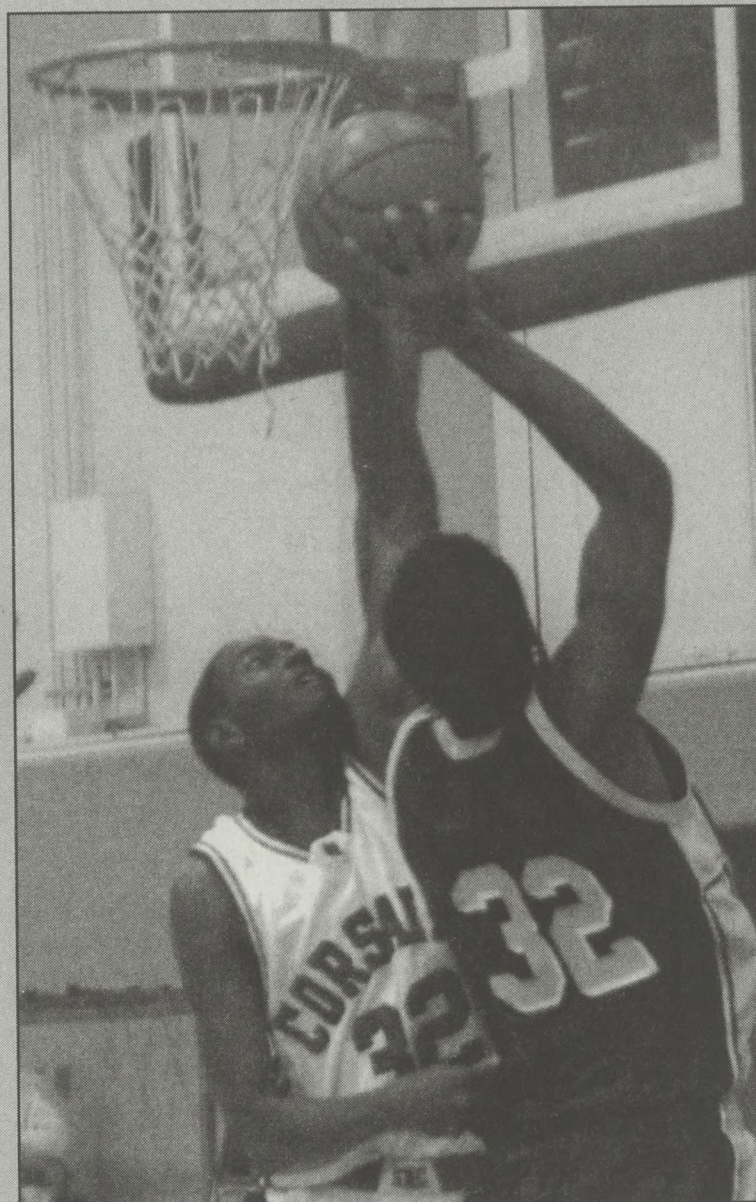
"I think the season went

**The Monarchs failed to make the playoffs after losing conference games.**

pretty much as I expected it to go... it was up and down because I was the new coach (former coach Doug Michelson retired) and the team had to learn a new system," stated head coach Jay Werner. "But, we didn't take care of business the last couple of games."

The Monarchs, led by sophomore Carlos Rivers (who led the WSC in assists, and was seventh in scoring) expressed his disappointment. "It's overwhelming," he said. We should have made the playoffs. We've been practicing all season for this. To hear that we are not making the playoffs, it's real upsetting."

When asked if the recent budget cuts that reduced the teams down from 32 to 16 affected their chances, Rivers



SCOTT HOWARD / VALLEY STAR

**BLOCK PARTY** - Santa Monica guard Menelik Barbary, left, blocks a layup from Valley guard Rendell Pegg at Corsair Pavillion in the final regular season game Friday.

responded by saying, "no...we just felt that we won enough games to get there."

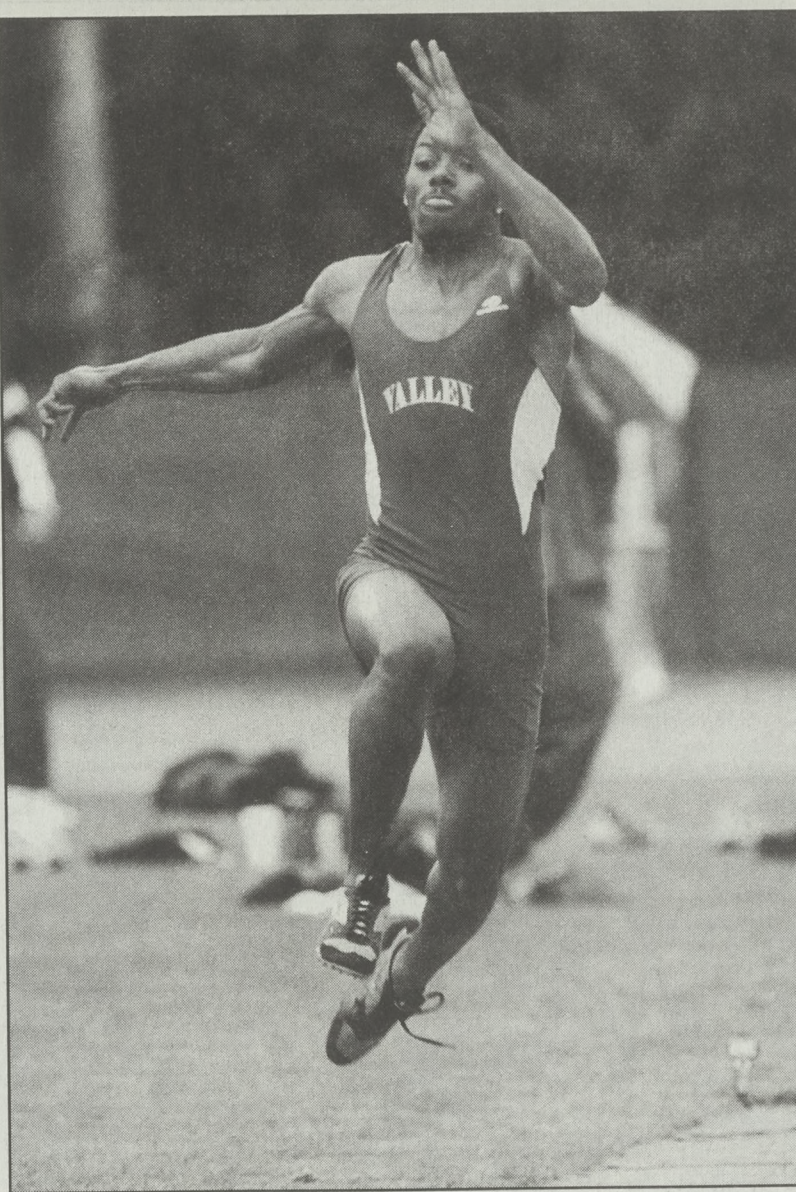
Jeff Lim, a freshman guard on the team had a different opinion and stated that the team somewhat was cheated out of the playoffs.

"I think that the fact that the teams were cut in half

from 32 last season definitely affected our chances," he said.

Werner stated that his outlook on next season is positive.

"The freshman really stood up this season and under the circumstances, played really well."



SCOTT HOWARD / VALLEY STAR

**LONG JUMP** - D'Andre Good makes his final attempt to achieve the longest distance for the long jump competition Saturday at Cerritos.

## Valley Back on Track

## ■ Not even rain can stop Valley's track team.

BY SAM HAHN  
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College track and field team competed in the Cerritos College Invitational earlier this month against colleges from southern and central California.

"The good thing about invitationals is that they're previews of state competitions," said Coach Francois Wolman.

Valley College has a small track team this year, around 30 runners, and does not have enough to cover all of the field events except javelin, high, long, and triple jumps. Coach Wolman

express his concern with the lack of athletes and wants more to join, especially off-season football players. He said that most of the runners form other colleges were football players.

"Most of footballs greatest ran track," said Wolman.

Valley hasn't faired well in the last three years and is hoping for a better season. The strength of track and field this season lies in their sprinting section, with two sprinters that have times less than 11 seconds on the 100-meter. The top sprinters are Good, with a best time 10.8 on the 100-meter and Arthur Sulcer, who has a 10.7 mark.



## SPORTS

9

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## BASEBALL PREVIEW

## Valley: Nowhere to Go But Up

■ Young team struggles to get into the swing of things.

By MICHAEL ORDOÑA  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Valley College Monarchs have opened the season 0-10, but all is not lost.

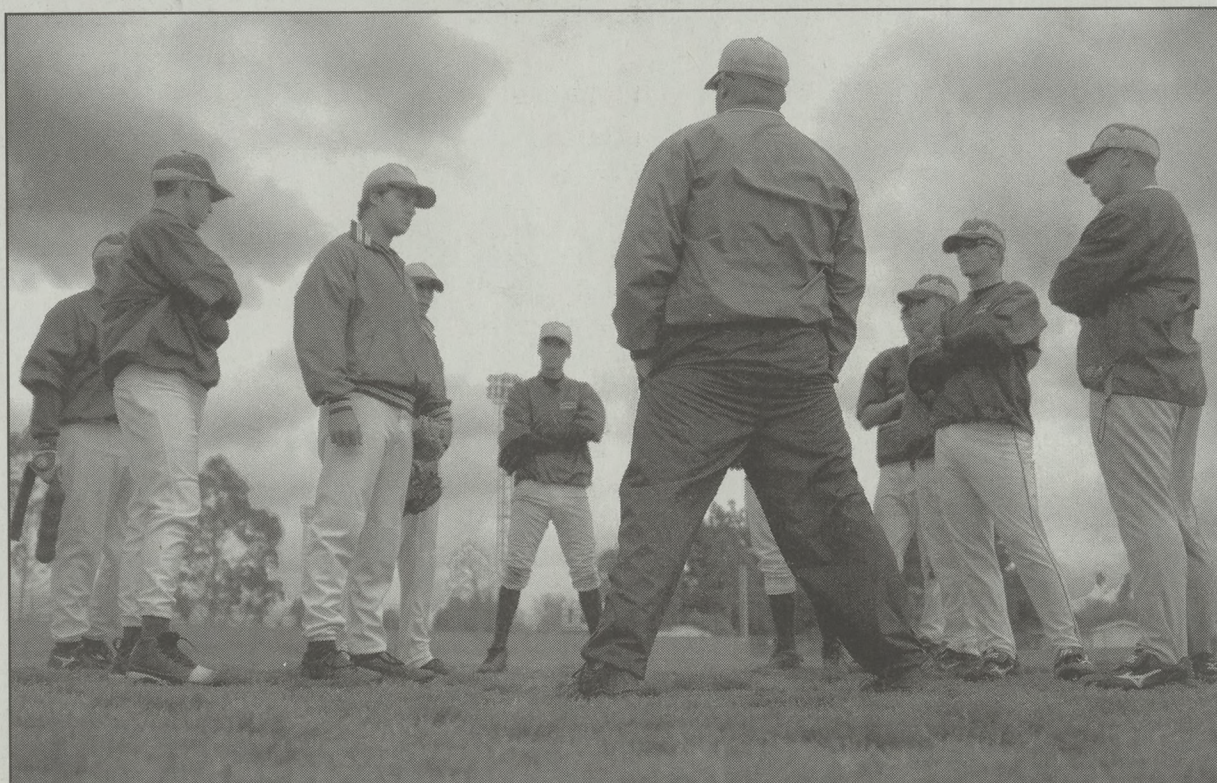
With 25 games left in the season and the conference schedule yet to begin, Coach Chris Johnson sees a lot of room – and opportunity – for improvement.

“We’ve struggled, to say the least,” he said, “but the conference schedule basically starts a new season, and we just got one of our main pitchers back [sophomore right-hander Jose Avila].”

Avila had been suffering from a mysterious ailment marked by dizziness. While he’s apparently over it now, the Monarchs’ offense still seems disoriented. The team is currently sporting a sparkling on-base percentage of about .360, but inconsistent clutch hitting has kept run production below expectations.

“Guys are trying to hit the ball far,” said an exasperated Johnson, “and when you do that, it doesn’t go anywhere. In a couple of games we’ve left 13, 14 guys on base. We’ve got a couple of guys struggling, so it’s been musical lineups so far – but it’s early in the season.”

For instance, big first baseman Sergio Garcia (6’3”, 225 lbs.) has yet to develop a consistent stroke, apparently trying too frequently to muscle it out of the park. “We’re just hoping he hits the ball,” says Johnson. “He’s



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

**BASEBALL RETURNS** - Head coach Chris Johnson speaks to his players during practice on Pike Field. The Monarchs will try to improve on last season's 2-19-2 record.

a little bit nuts with the power thing. He’s struggled early, but he’s got good potential.”

Several players are off to hot starts, according to the coach, including speedy sophomore centerfielder Corey Brown and freshman catcher Jordan Wolff (statistics unavailable at press time). All-Conference second baseman Abel Pulido (.564 on-base percentage) missed last season due to injury after batting .400 as a freshman but has clearly picked up where he left off. Meanwhile, the pitching staff is led by right-handed starter Chris Zakosek. According to Johnson, the hearing-impaired

sophomore’s outstanding command of his fastball, curve and change make him the ace.

However, the 0-10 start following last year’s 2-19-2 campaign doesn’t exactly inspire confidence. Even taking the lack of clutch hitting into account, the Monarchs are scoring more than five runs per game but have yet to notch a victory. Pitching statistics were unavailable at press time.

Johnson says the team has exceptional speed (“We’re not the greatest baserunners in the world, but we do run well”) and plays fine defense, but toughness is a concern.

“We’ve got guys [bailing

on inside pitches] like they were going to get cut in half,” he says.

Johnson, who has been coaching for 25 years, 18 at Valley, says he still likes this team, citing his players’ ability to learn.

“You want sophomores in the middle of your lineup, some guys with experience, but it’s the junior college dynamic,” he laments. “Everyone’s a young player. The freshmen guys are a little lost and the sophomore guys are worrying about next year. Trying to keep them all in the present is the trick.”

“We have a saying: ‘You’re on your way to Sunday league if you don’t get the job done.’”

AN OPINION  
The Passion of the Jock

By DAVID BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

The Jock is a big, unintelligent athlete who would have to cheat on tests to pass his classes, or at least that’s what people are led to believe.

Jocks have been portrayed in the past as bullies and mindless thugs. While mostly limited to linemen and linebackers of football, it has also been applied to players of all sports. Hollywood movies have added to this with multiple teen movies and the “Nerds” series. For years, if someone was seen wearing a letterman jacket they were labeled as a dumb, mean and tough jock. Yet more and more these athletes happen to be scholars as well good players.

In the past, athletes were able to make it into big name schools with nothing more than tremendous athletic skills. Players didn’t really have to know much, only the basics to make it through college with only the minimum required units. Many professors and administrators bent rules and requirements to keep star players playing. During this time people worked their way through college and despised the “jocks” for breezing through and graduating at the same time as them.

Now, those hard working

people have become administrators and their dislike of athletes has carried over into their adult careers. They enforce strict requirements and prevent many athletes from playing at major colleges.

In high school, athletes are required to keep a 2.0 or higher grade point average. In reality, if a player wishes to play at the next level they have to do extremely well in their classes and average 3.0 to 4.0 GPAs. Coaches know this and to assure that players succeed enforce strict academic programs. They help their players select classes and may even provide tutors. In my high school (Hoover High), players were required to show up to class every day and to bring in a weekly progress report to the coach. No one was able to ditch class or severe punishment was enforced.

After such programs, players have to work their butts off, not just to play and improve but also to pass all of their classes and get good grades. They have the same amount of work as a regular student yet less time in which to do it due to practice. Athletes are not dumb jocks. They are smart, dedicated, hardworking students who play sports on the side.



GABY ALONSO / VALLEY STAR

**COMING IN** - The Lady Monarchs are off to a 4-7 start for the 2004 season, but have high hopes to improve their record as the season goes on. Valley lost to Ventura 15-1 Thursday.

## Women’s Softball Team Begins Play

■ Team debuts With a win, positive energy, outlook

By SUSAN MALTBY  
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College softball team recorded its first conference win with a 6-5 victory over Moorpark College earlier this month. The team is looking to improve on last season with practice, practice, practice.

“We practice hard to play hard,” said 19-year-old catcher, Lorena Arreguin. “Through summer and fall we worked out every week, Monday to Thursday. Since January, we’ve been working Monday to Friday. We’ve worked really hard and we’re ready.”

The Lady Monarchs were playing at Cuesta College during press time. The team’s next

conference games are Thursday against Pierce College and Tuesday against Rio Hondo College. Both games are at home.

The team suffered a disappointing 15-1 loss against Ventura Thursday.

“We’ve gone through a lot of obstacles,” said assistant coach Tanya Ledesma. “The team has really pulled together and fought to get to where they’re at. The coaching staff set out to get the program back on its feet, gain respect as a team and see that Valley is well represented. They’re still climbing the ladder each day. They’ve come a long way. We have a good core group of girls with a lot of heart.”

“We’re off to a better start

than last year,” said Head Coach Frances Garcia. “We’re 1-1 in Conference. Our goal was to improve and we’ve done that and we will continue to do that. This team has outstanding leadership, dedication, tremendous work ethic, and a great group of players.”

Pitcher Amanda Salazar completed seven innings for a win against Moorpark and it was her first college conference game.

Janelle Mendez, 20, second base, was with the team last year and has become a team leader. She is confident about this year’s crew.

“We have a good squad this year,” she said. “We can really go far. I truly believe that.”

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# GALLERY

## Scenes from a Wedding



Valley College's Extension Department Director Annie Goldman and Dean of Fine Performing and Media Arts Dennis Reed were married in a private ceremony in Sherman Oaks on Friday. The happy couple then held what is thought to be the first wedding reception in campus history in Valley's Horseshoe Theatre. A live blues band and about 90 friends and family joined in the festivities.

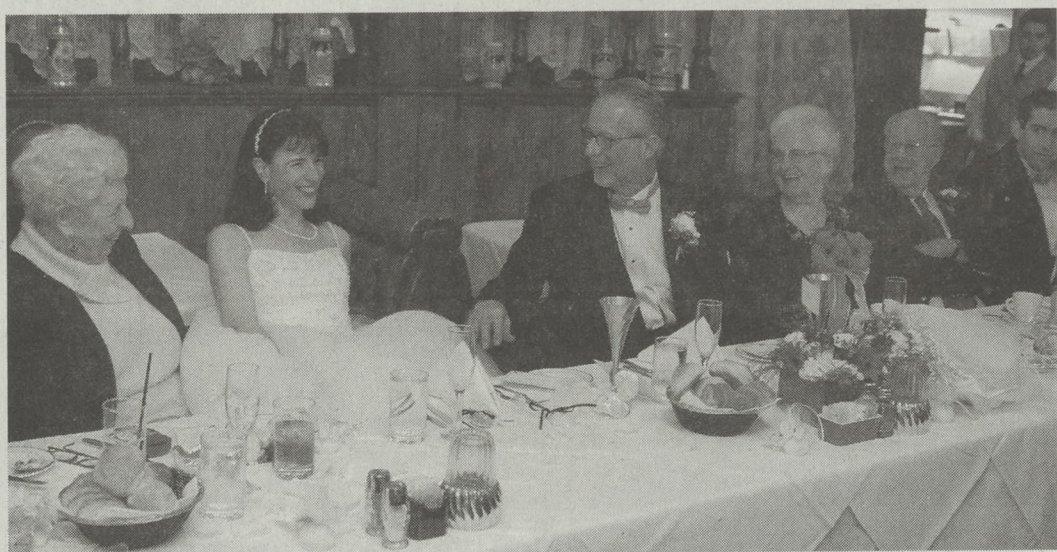
According to friend Jim Marrin, who claims to have known the couple for "100 years," the site of the reception was fitting since the couple met on campus. The bride "relentlessly bugged him" to resume a paralegal program she had run at another school "until he finally gave in - and took on most of her students."

Friend Stephen White said, "Dennis is complex, fastidious and a good dancer," while the new Mrs. Reed is "offbeat, provocative and smart."

"We're very honored [the Reeds] let us share this special day," said President Tyce Weider, speaking at the reception. "Dennis lucked out - he got a beautiful wife - but he'll have to stay on his toes."

"We decided to have our reception with our friends here at the college - I've been here about 10 years, that must really mean I like it here," an ebullient Annie Reed told the crowd. "We're really married, we've got rings and everything!"

Friend Mus White looked warmly upon the blushing bride and said, "Doesn't she look like Cinderella?"



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